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PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



IN THIS ISSUE: ONE OF THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN'S DEADLIEST
FOES...IS ABOUT TO BECOME EVEN DEADLIER!!!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE HATRED OF THE HOBGOBLIN!

TONIGHT IS
THE NIGHT! SOON
ALL THE POWER
POSSESSED BY
THE ORIGINAL
GREEN GOBLIN...

...ALL THAT--
AND MORE--

--SHALL
BELONG TO...
HOBGOBLIN!

SOMEWHERE, SOMEPLACE
COMPUTERS CHANNEL
CHEMICAL CURRENTS
INSIDE A HUGE VAT.
SOMEWHERE, SOMEPLACE...

...EVIL IS
A BORNING!

BILL MANTLO / AL MILGROM & JIM MOONEY / D. ALBERS, LETTERER / TOM D'FALCO & DANNY FINGEROTH / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER ARTISTS B. SHAREN, COLORIST EDITORS CHIEF
WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR INDEBTEDNESS TO HOBGOBLIN'S CREATOR,
ROGER STERN, FOR HIS GRACIOUS PLOT ASSIST.

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™ Vol. 1, No. 85, December, 1983. (ISSN 0273-6632) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Gaston, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 357 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018. Second Class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. Published monthly. Copyright © 1983 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 50c per copy in the U.S. and 75c in Canada. Subscription rate \$7.20 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, \$9.20. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issues), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 357 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10018.

NORMAN OSBORN--
THE GREEN GOBLIN--
WAS INSANE-- BUT
METHODICAL IN
HIS MADNESS.

HE RECORDED
EVERY
ASPECT OF HIS
CRIMINAL CAREER.
HIS JOURNAL
ENTRIES ARE
EXHAUSTIVE.

The following
 remains as
 to the best
 way to un-
 able the
 formula to
 be viable
 but Hamilton
 in all
 of had
 rather

...
 But above
 of 80 men
 supported a
 response
 Hamilton
 Hamilton in
 on a
 of
 of
 water

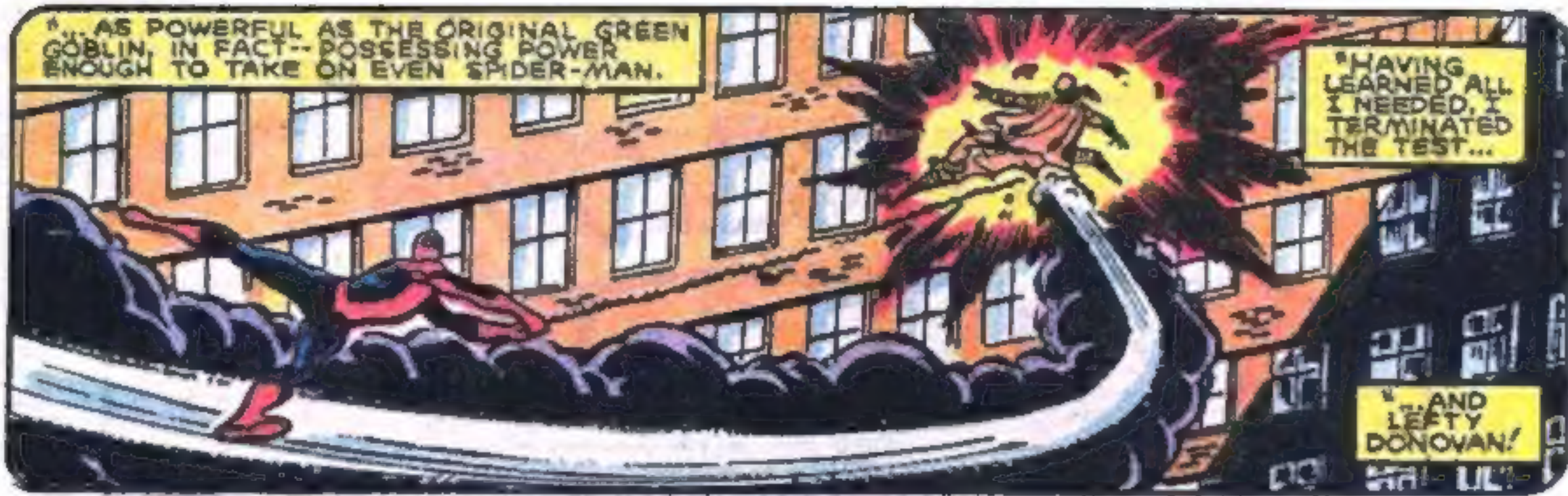
...HIS HIDDEN
HIDEOUTS,
THE DEADLY
WEAPONRY IN
HIS BAG O'
TRICKS, HIS
GOBLIN-GLIDERS-

TOYMAST &
WOLF THE A
SCHEDULE AND
SCHEDULES
ON PAPER OF
AND NO TALK
THAT WORKING
BEST BUILT
SCHEDULES
TURN

A stylized illustration of a person with dark hair, wearing a green shirt, sitting at a desk. They are looking down at a small, ornate object on the desk, which appears to be a clock or a small statue. A large lamp with a yellow glow is positioned to the left, casting light on the person's face and the desk. In the background, there is a bookshelf filled with books. The overall style is reminiscent of mid-20th-century graphic design or illustration.

A comic book illustration of a character with a purple face and a yellow and white striped shirt, lying down with their eyes closed. The character has a white bandage wrapped around their head, covering their eyes. The background is a mix of blue and white, suggesting a sky or a light source. The style is typical of comic book art, with bold lines and a limited color palette.

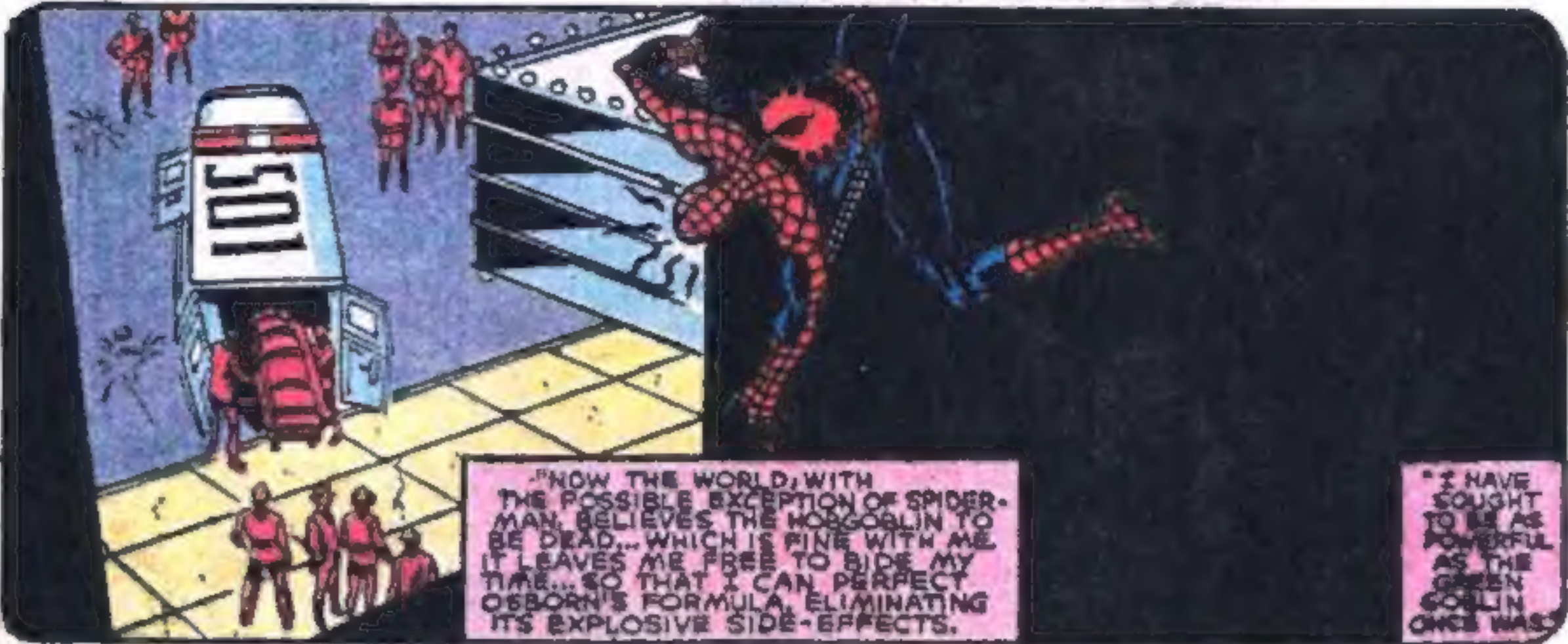
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"AS POWERFUL AS THE ORIGINAL GREEN GOBLIN, IN FACT-- POSSESSING POWER ENOUGH TO TAKE ON EVEN SPIDER-MAN."

"HAVING LEARNED ALL I NEEDED, I TERMINATED THE TEST..."

"AND LEFTY DONOVAN!"



"NOW THE WORLD, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF SPIDER-MAN, BELIEVES THE HOBGOBLIN TO BE DEAD... WHICH IS FINE WITH ME. IT LEAVES ME FREE TO BIDE MY TIME... SO THAT I CAN PERFECT OSBORN'S FORMULA, ELIMINATING ITS EXPLOSIVE SIDE-EFFECTS."

"I HAVE SOUGHT TO BE AS POWERFUL AS THE GREEN GOBLIN ONCE WAS."

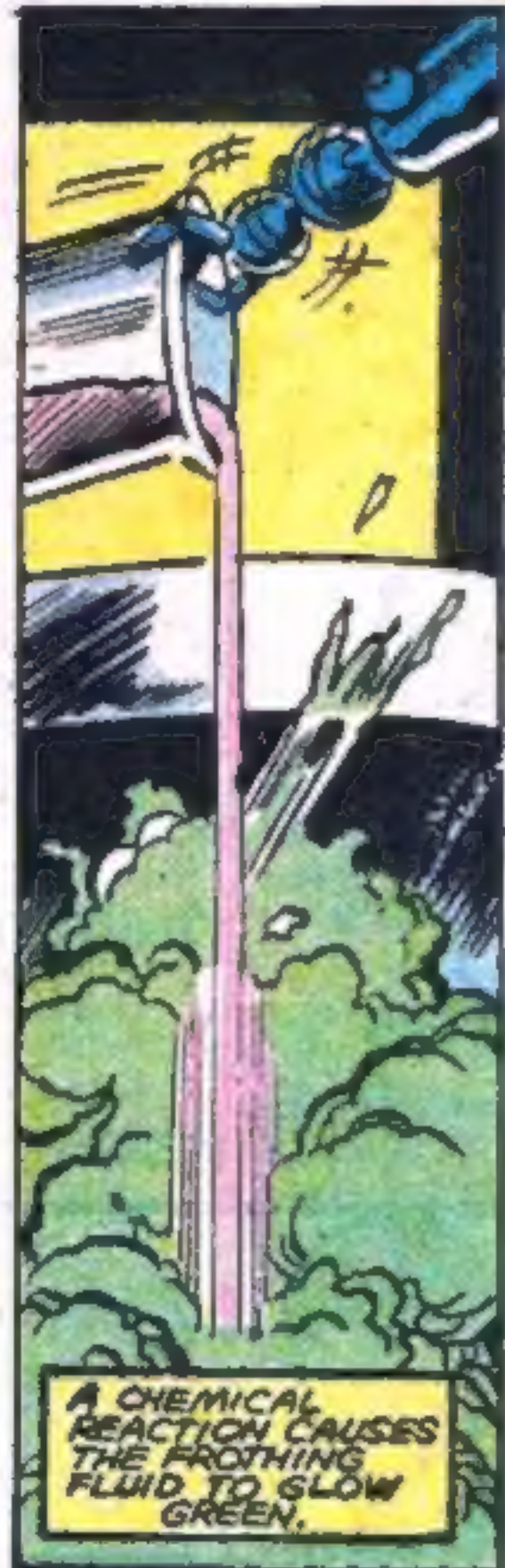


TONIGHT I SHALL ACHIEVE THAT END.

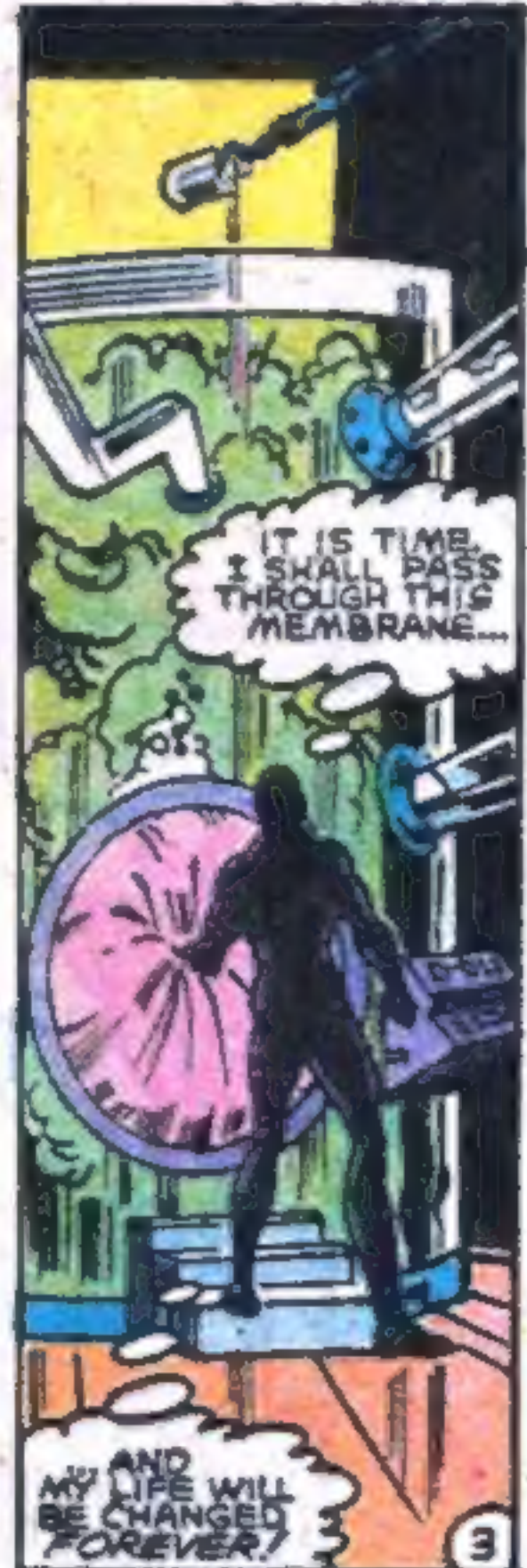
AT THE CLICK OF A BUTTON...



... WALDOES--MECHANICAL ARMS--EXTEND INTO THE SEETHING VAT AND PREPARE TO ADD THE FINAL INGREDIENT.



A CHEMICAL REACTION CAUSES THE FROTHING FLUID TO GLOW GREEN.



IT IS TIME I SHALL PASS THROUGH THIS MEMBRANE...

AND MY LIFE WILL BE CHANGED FOREVER!



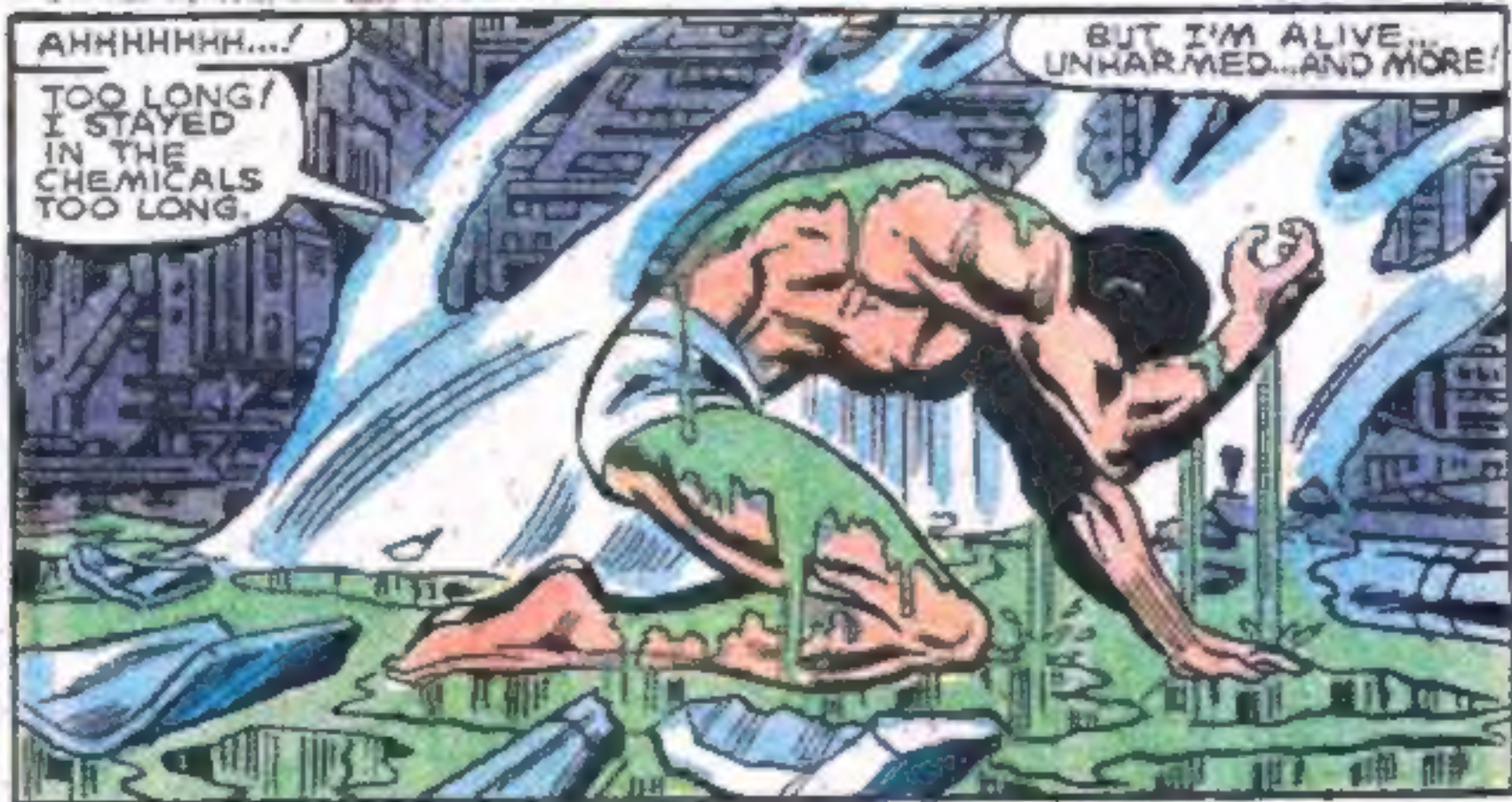
Caution:
The potential exists for even a greater power-- a conclusion perhaps equal to that prolonged immersion in that possessed by the fluid can Spider-Man--but a cause possible continued experi-- a psychological mentation has a side effects, led me to a leading even to madness.

MINUTES PASS...

PERHAPS TOO MANY MINUTES...



BUHWHRR
BOOM!



AHHHHHH...!
TOO LONG!
I STAYED
IN THE
CHEMICALS
TOO LONG.

BUT I'M ALIVE...
UNHARMED...AND MORE!



I CAN FEEL MY BODY
BURSTING WITH
MORE SHEER **POWER**
THAN I COULD EVER
HAVE CONCEIVED OF!



I'VE DONE IT!
I'VE BECOME
AS POWERFUL
AS THE ORIGINAL
GREEN GOBLIN!



MAYBE EVEN
MORE POWERFUL!



BUT THE
ONLY WAY TO
TEST THAT
THEORY IS TO
DEFEAT THE
ONE Foe THE
GOBLIN COULD
NEVER DEFEAT
HIMSELF!

THUS, TONIGHT...
THE **MOGOBLIN**
WILL DESTROY
SPIDER-MAN!

EARLIER THAT AFTERNOON
AT CENTRAL PARK'S
TAVERN-ON-THE-GREEN,
ONE OF NEW YORK'S
SWANKIEST LUNCH SPOTS...

WHEW! THE
CLOSEST I'VE
EVER COME TO
DINING HERE IS
WHEN I ATE A
SANDWICH ON
A NEARBY PARK
BENCH.

BUT HARRY OSBORN SAID HE AND LIZ HAD
AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE...
AND THAT LUNCH WAS HIS TREAT.

SO WHO WAS MAY
PARKER'S NEPHEW
PETER TO SAY NO TO
A FREE FEED?

ARRIVING JUST A FEW
MINUTES LATE...

PETER PARKER DISCOVERS THAT THE REST OF
HIS PARTY HAS YET TO PROCEED PAST THE
COCKTAIL STAGE.

HEY, PETE!
YOU MADE IT!

HARRY, OLD BUDDY, THE PRO-
VERBIAL WILD HORSES COULDN'T
KEEP ME AWAY FROM SEEING YOU AND
THE OLD GANG AGAIN!

I'M SO GLAD YOU FEEL THAT WAY,
PETER. WE'VE ALL KNOWN EACH OTHER
SO LONG, BEEN THROUGH SO MANY
CHANGES TOGETHER.

MAYBE
THAT'S WHAT
KEEPS US
ALL
TOGETHER,
LIZ.

WHY, THAT'S
EXACTLY HOW
LIZ AND I
FELT, PETE--

WHAT IS
THE VERY
REASON
FOR THIS
LUNCHEON,
LIZ?

OH, I CAN'T
TELL YOU,
BETTY--
NOT YET.

NOT 'TIL
WE'RE
ALL
HERE!

LOOK AT HARRY AND LIZ, SO HAPPY
TOGETHER DESPITE ALL THEY'VE BEEN
THROUGH. LIZ'S STEP-BROTHER WAS
THE MOLTEN MAN--

--AND HARRY'S DAD
WAS THE ORIGINAL
GREEN GOBLIN?

--THOUGH A LATER TRAUMA
MERCIFULLY WIPED THAT FACT FROM HIS MIND.

LISTEN! I LIKE PARTIES AS MUCH AS ANYONE, BUT NED AND I ARE NINE-TO-FIVERS! WE'VE GOT JOBS TO GET BACK TO!

SO IF YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS HAVE A SECRET TO SHARE WITH THE REST OF US--



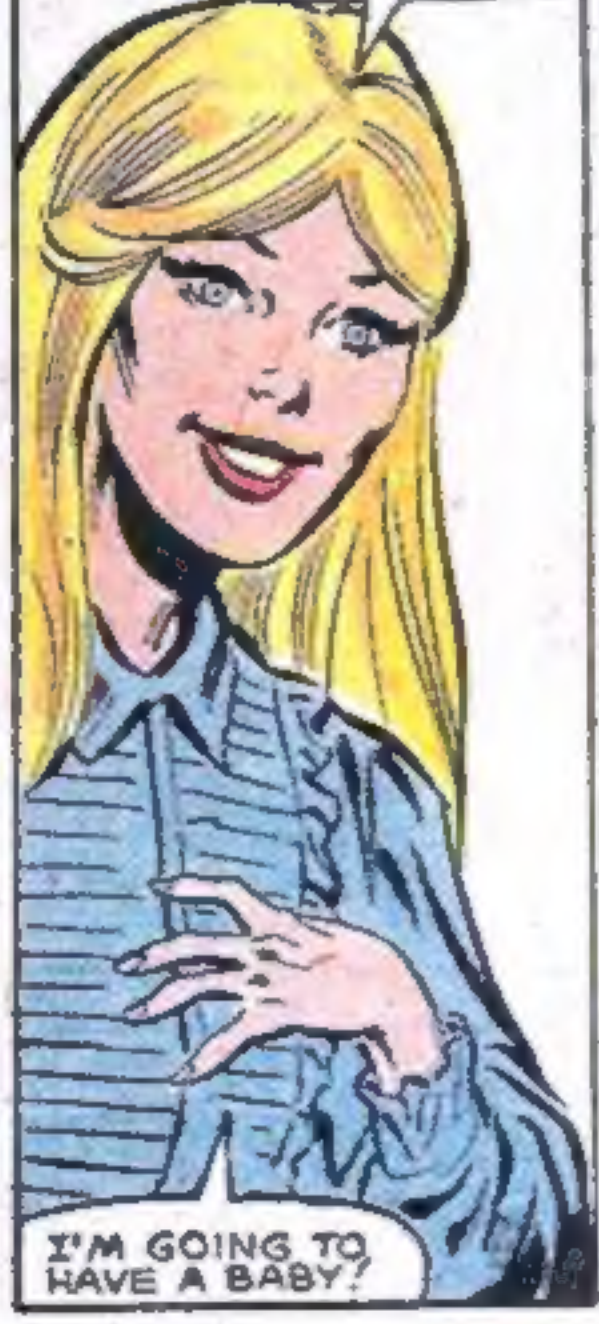
--I FOR ONE AM POSITIVELY BURSTING TO HEAR IT!

AT BETTY BRANT'S FRIENDLY URGING, A BLUSH SUFFUSES LIZ OSBORN'S CHEEKS.



WELL, THE ONLY ONE MISSING IS MARY JANE WATSON. WE WERE WAITING FOR HER...

BUT I CAN'T KEEP THE NEWS IN ANY LONGER! HARRY AND I ARE GOING TO BE A MOMMY!



I'M GOING TO HAVE A BABY!

YIPEEEE! I LOVE BABIES!



OTHER PEOPLE'S, OF COURSE.



OH, MARY JANE! YOU DID COME! I... WE WEREN'T SURE--!

THAT WAS SILLY, LIZ! JUST BECAUSE I'M FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY-FANCY DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T CARE FOR MY FRIENDS!

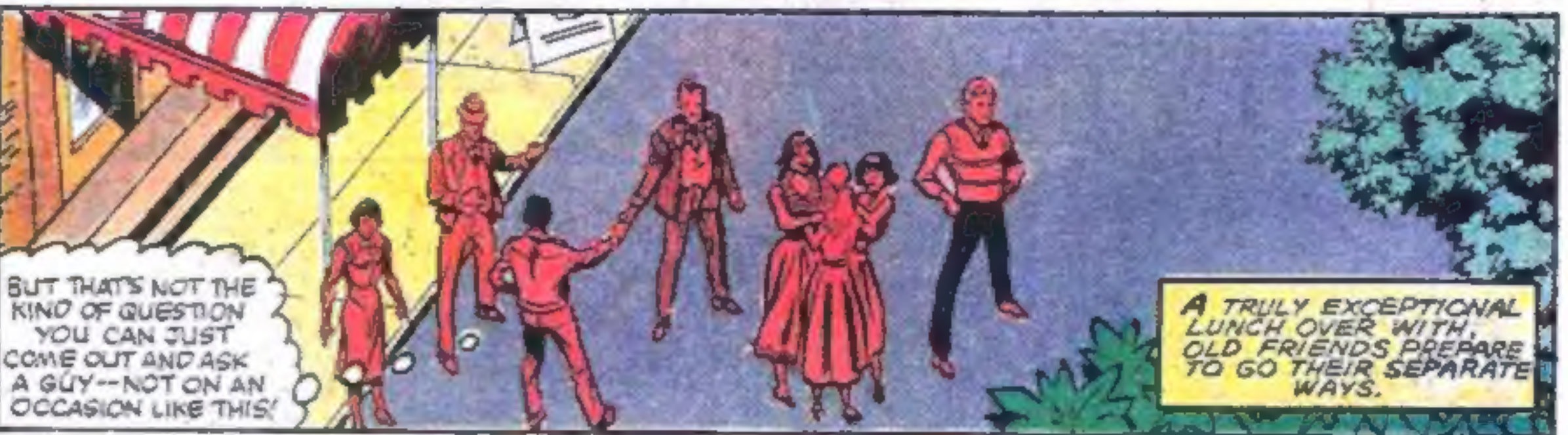
I LOVE YOU AND HARRY--AND I'M GOING TO LOVE YOUR BABY!



THERE ARE TEARS, THEN, OF JOY...

... AND CONGRATULATIONS ALL AROUND.







...UNDECIPHER-
ABLE.

YOU LOOK
PUZZLED,
TIGER?

TELL ME
ABOUT IT,
MARY
JANE!

OKAY,
I WILL
FLASH
AND SHA
SHAN HAVE
PROBLEMS



--AND YOU'RE
TRYING TO
FIGURE OUT
WHAT THEY
ARE SO YOU
CAN SOLVE
THEM FOR
THEM?

YOU READ ME LIKE
A BOOK, M.J.



I'VE HAD PRACTICE!
YOU ALWAYS DID
WANT TO BE THE
"WHITE KNIGHT TO
THE RESCUE." I
THINK THAT'S WHAT
I LIKED ABOUT
YOU?

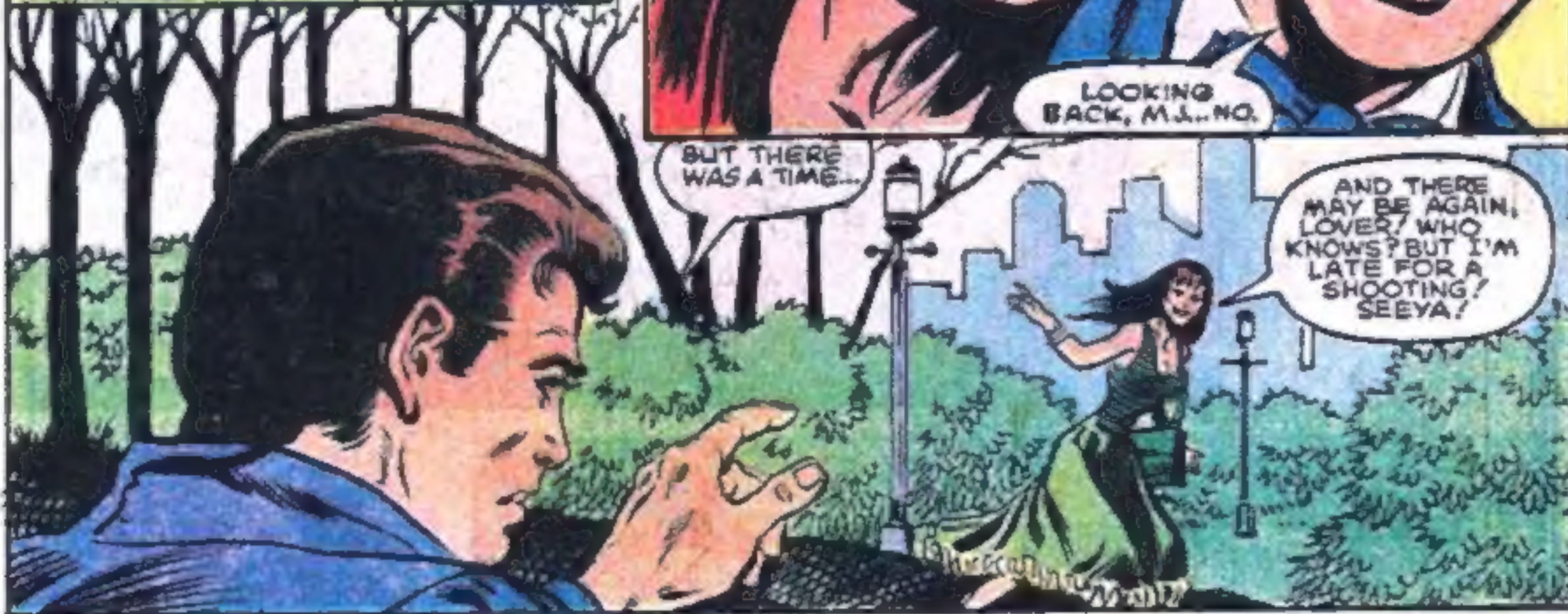
BUT NOT ENOUGH
TO MARRY ME?



OH, DON'T GET
HEAVY, TIGER!
BESIDES, WITH
THE BENEFIT
OF HINDSIGHT--

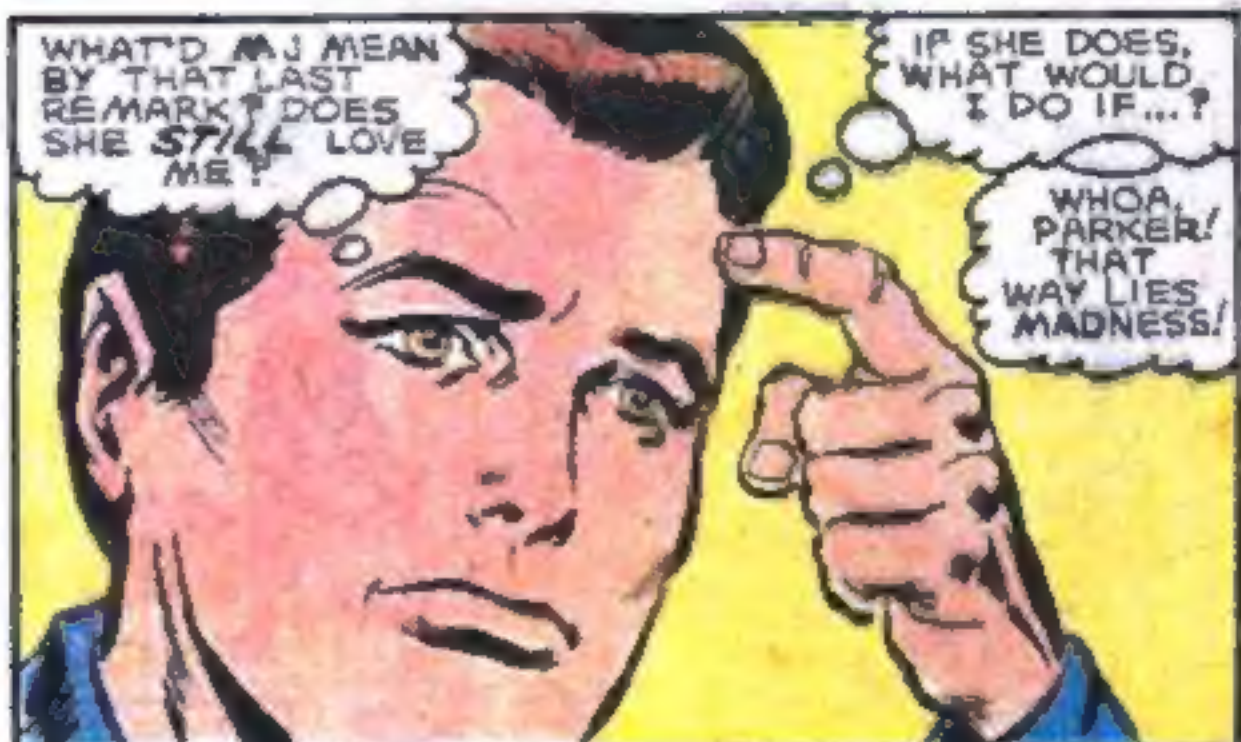
--CAN YOU
REALLY
IMAGINE THE
TWO OF US
TOGETHER?

LOOKING
BACK, M.J.--NO.



BUT THERE
WAS A TIME...

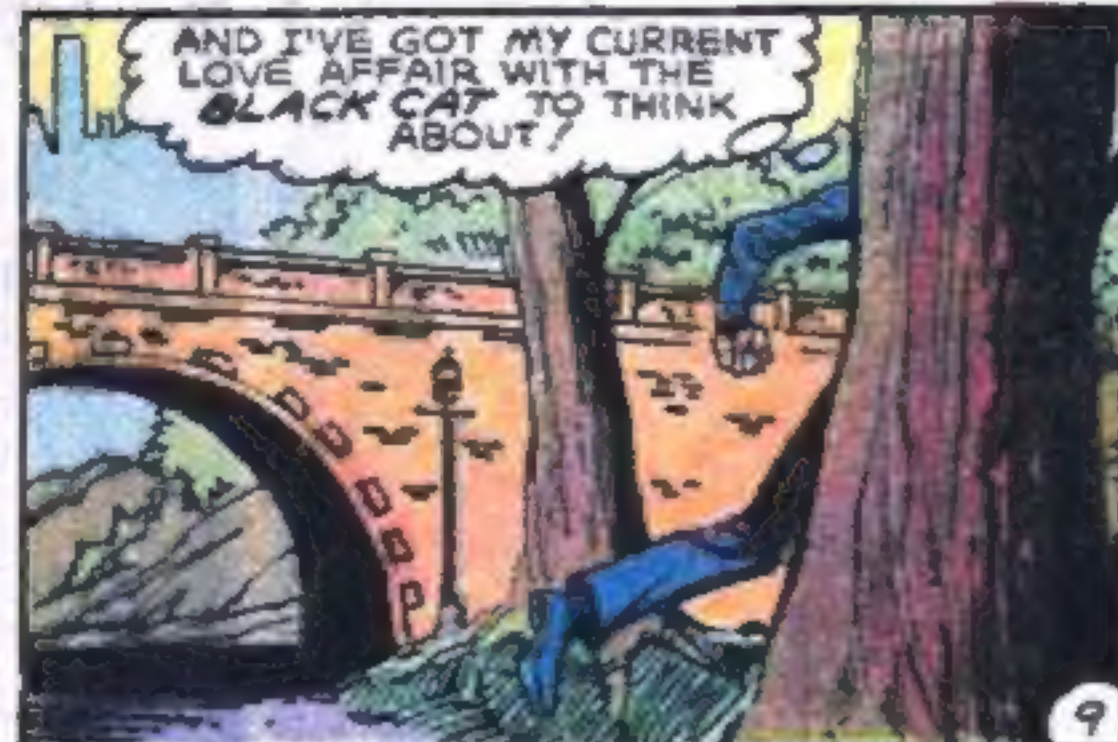
AND THERE
MAY BE AGAIN,
LOVER? WHO
KNOWS? BUT I'M
LATE FOR A
SHOOTING!
SEEYA!



WHAT'D M.J. MEAN
BY THAT LAST
REMARK? DOES
SHE STILL LOVE
ME?

IF SHE DOES,
WHAT WOULD
I DO IF...?

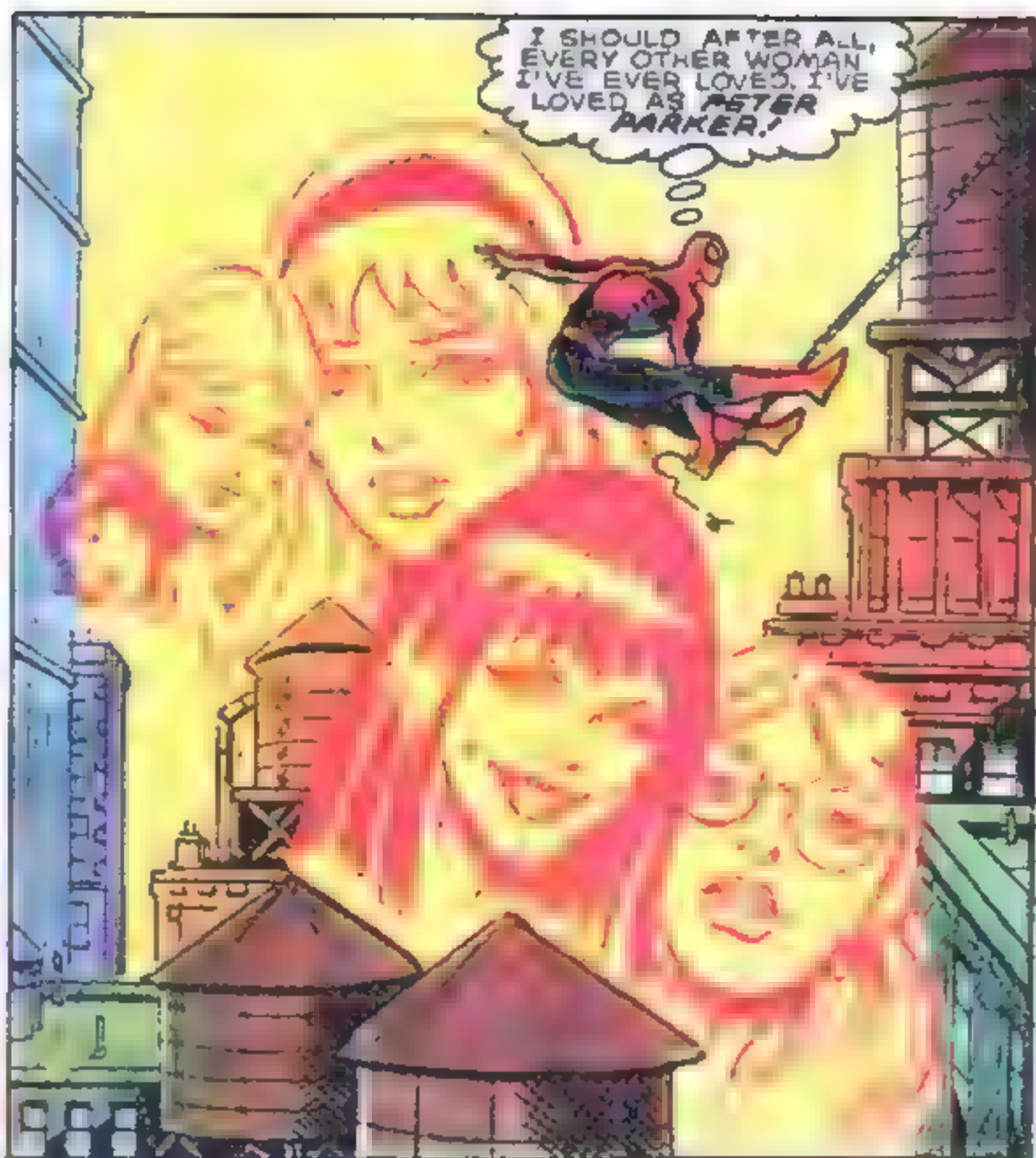
WHOA,
PARKER!
THAT
WAY LIES
MADNESS!



AND I'VE GOT MY CURRENT
LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE
BLACK CAT TO THINK
ABOUT!



OR SHOULD I SAY...
SPIDER-MAN'S
LOVE AFFAIR WITH
THE BLACK CAT??

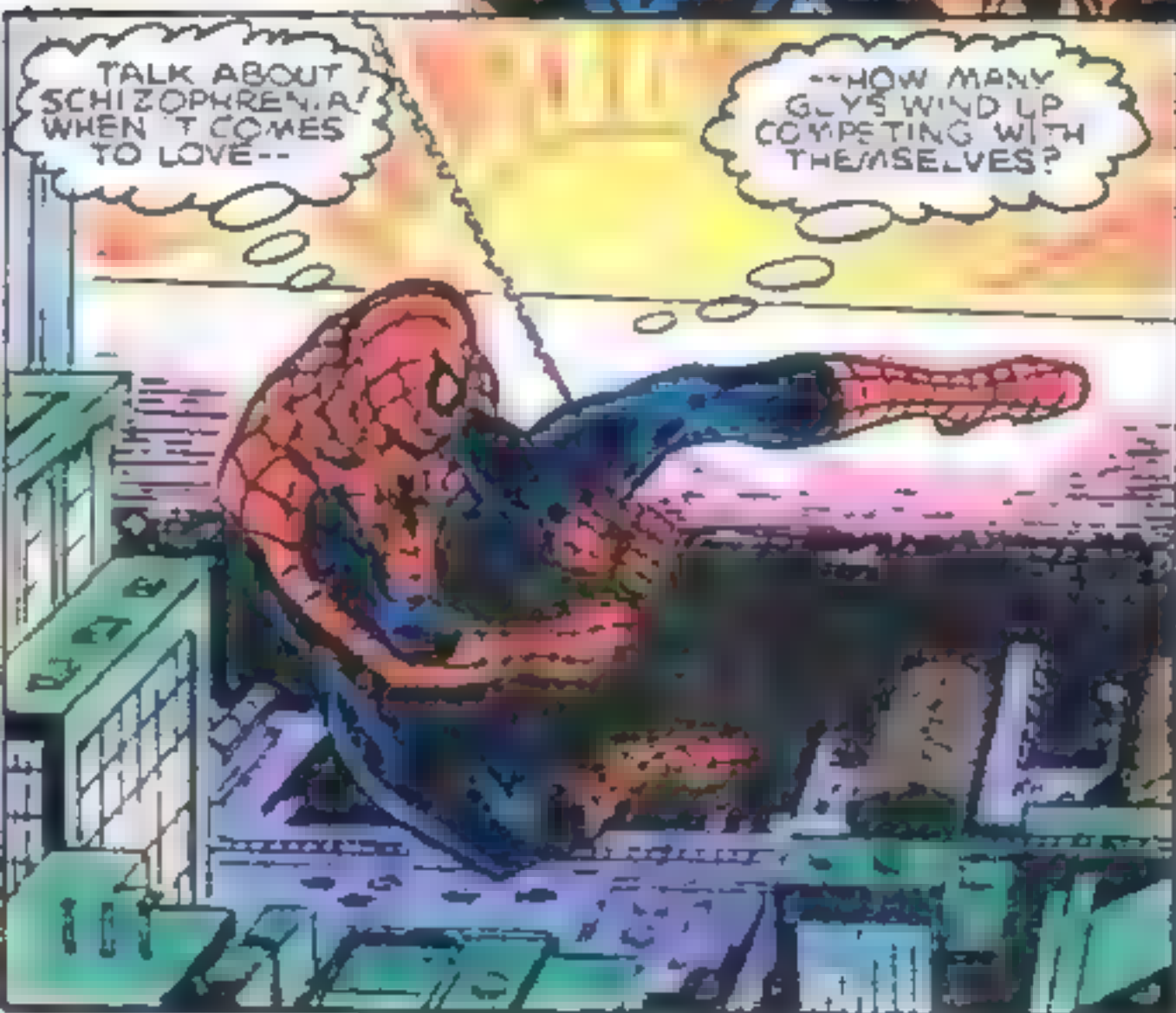


I SHOULD AFTER ALL,
EVERY OTHER WOMAN
I'VE EVER LOVED. I'VE
LOVED AS PETER
PARKER!



"IN FACT, MORE
OFTEN THAN NOT--

"--IT WAS SPIDER-
MAN WHO KEPT ME
AND MY LADIES
APART!"

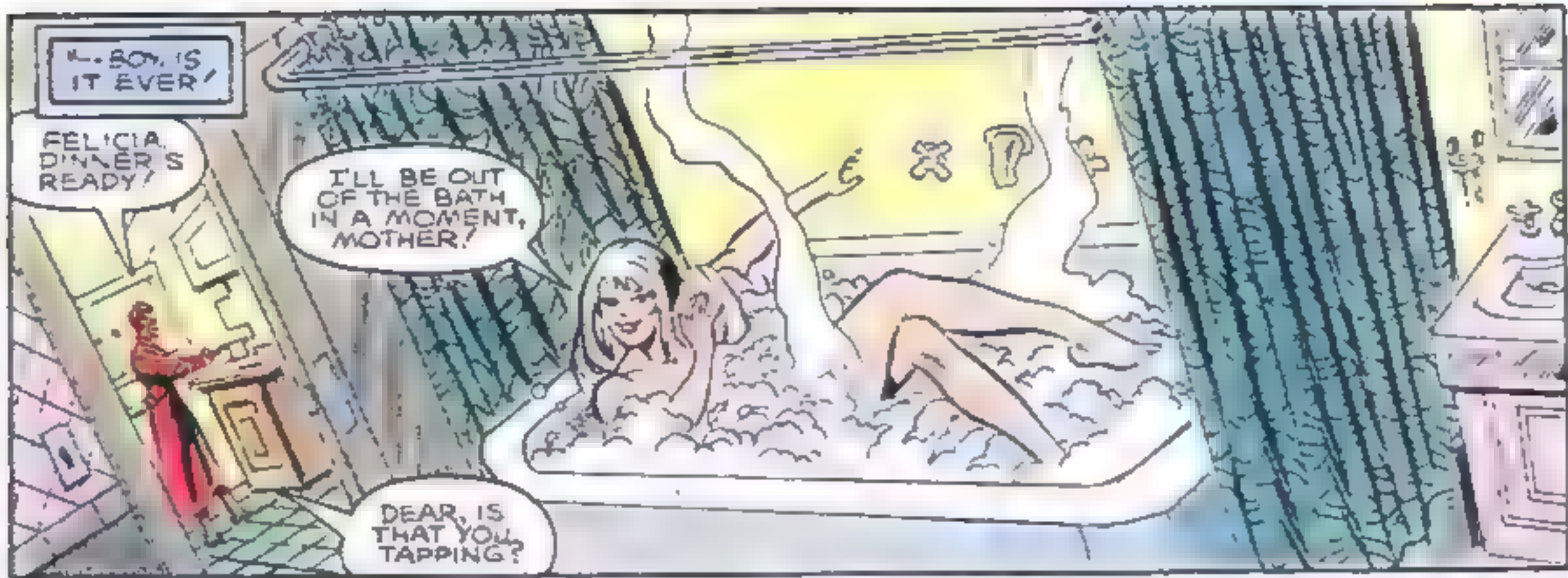


TALK ABOUT
SCHIZOPHRENIA!
WHEN IT COMES
TO LOVE--

--HOW MANY
GUYS WIND UP
COMPETING WITH
THEMSELVES?



BUT WITH
THE CAT IT'S
GONNA BE
DIFFERENT--

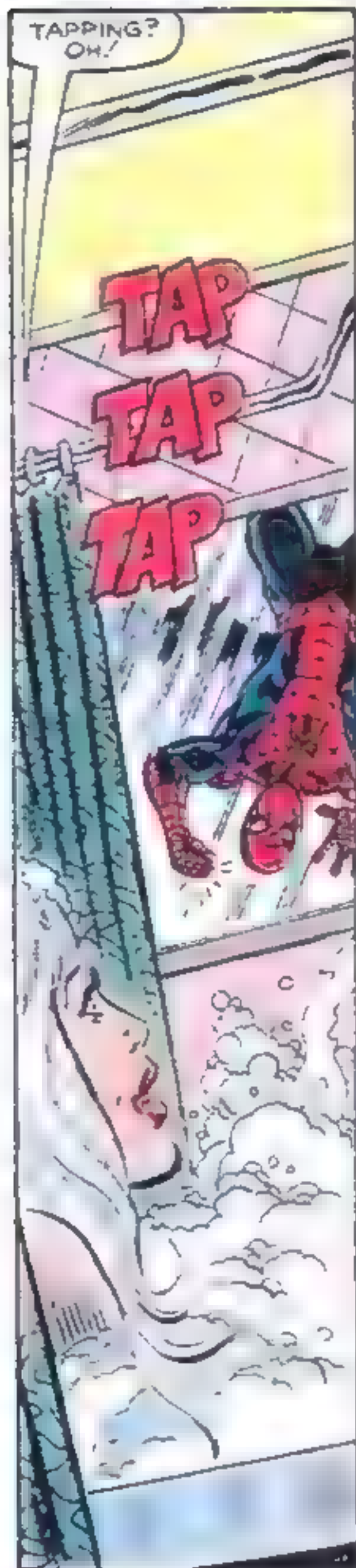


L. BOY, IS IT EVER!

FELICIA, DINNER'S READY!

I'LL BE OUT OF THE BATH IN A MOMENT, MOTHER!

DEAR, IS THAT YOU TAPPING?

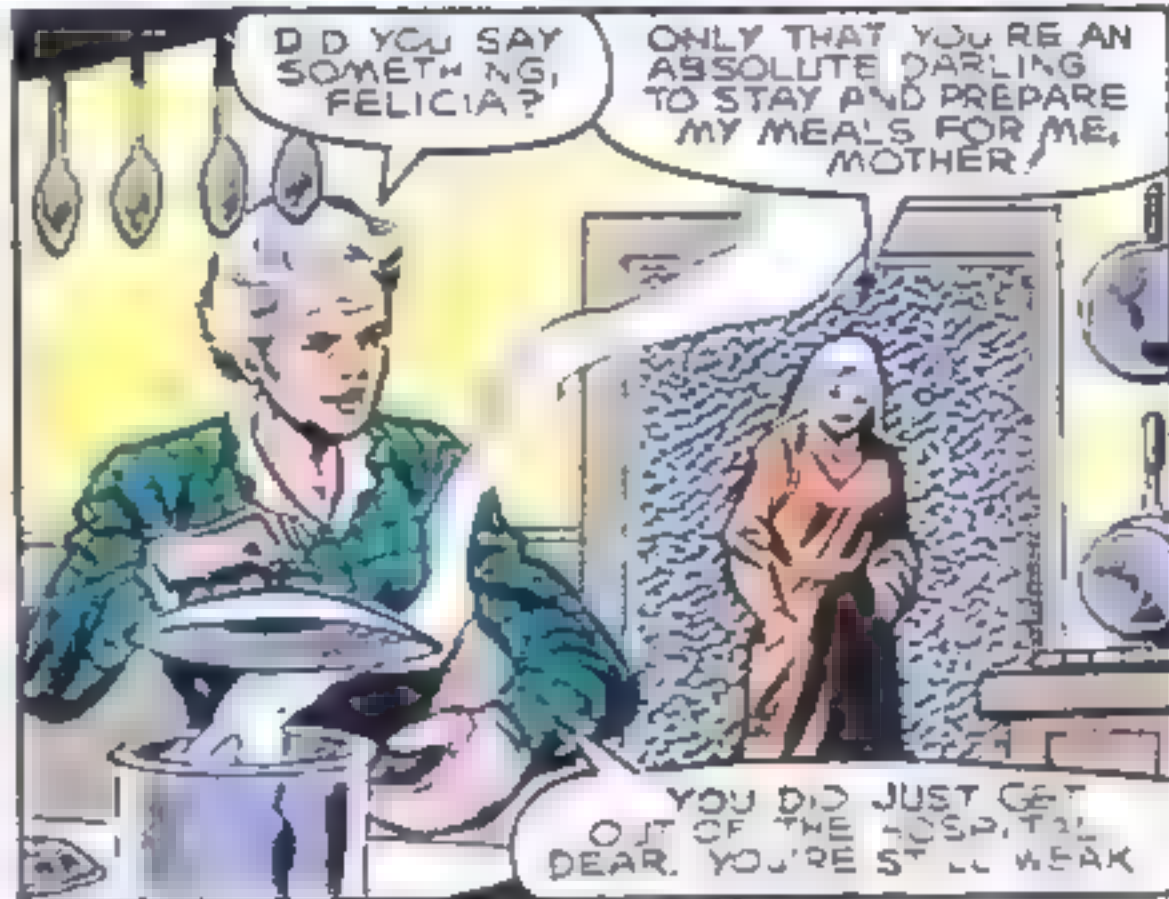


TAPPING? OH!

TAP
TAP
TAP



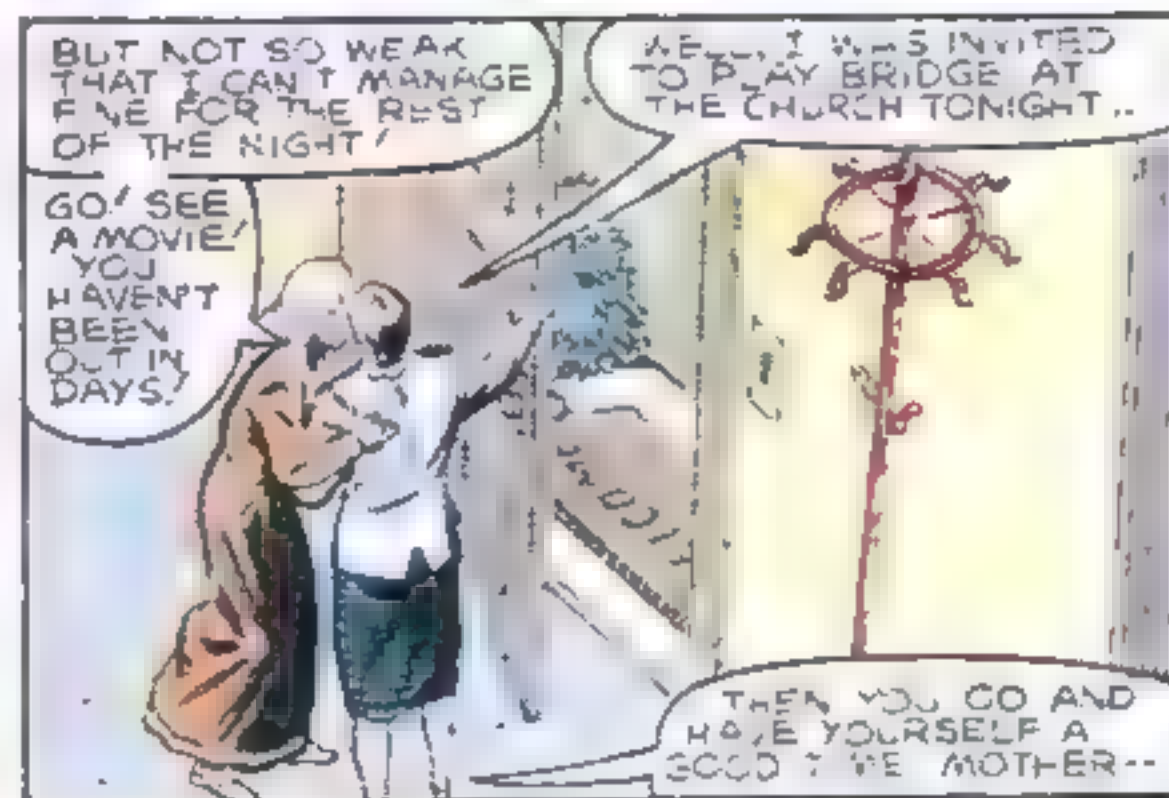
SHHH! FIVE MINUTES!



DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, FELICIA?

ONLY THAT YOU'RE AN ABSOLUTE DARLING TO STAY AND PREPARE MY MEALS FOR ME, MOTHER!

YOU DID JUST GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, DEAR. YOU'RE STILL WEAK.

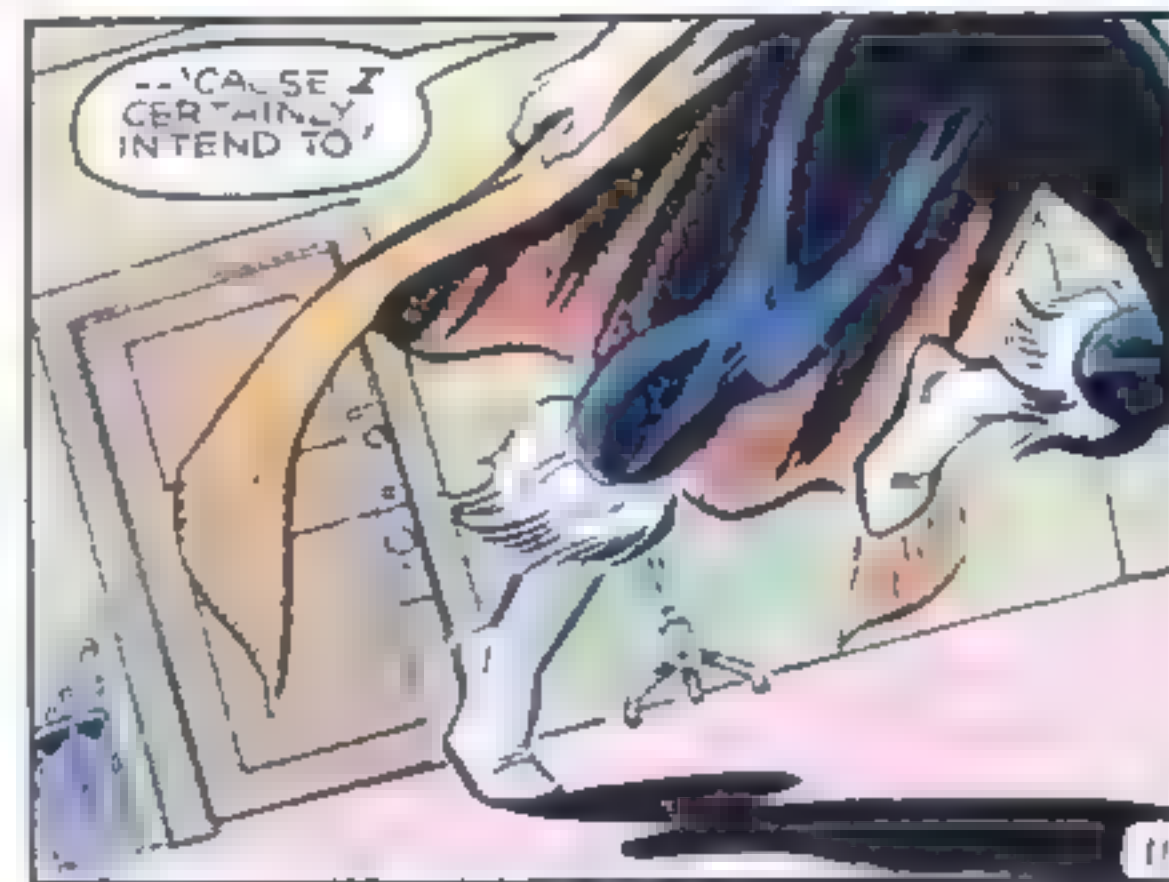


BUT NOT SO WEAK THAT I CAN'T MANAGE FIVE FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT!

WELL, I WAS INVITED TO PLAY BRIDGE AT THE CHURCH TONIGHT..

GO! SEE A MOVIE! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUT IN DAYS!

THEN YOU GO AND HAVE YOURSELF A GOOD TIME, MOTHER..



...CAUSE I CERTAINLY INTEND TO!



HOPE YOU DIDN'T CATCH ANYTHING COMMUNICABLE PERCHED OUT THERE WITH THE PIGEONS, LOVER!

WELL, MAYBE A BIT OF A CHILL, CAT!

MMMM! I KNOW JUST THE CURE FOR CHILLS!

FELICIA HARDY IS THE BLACK CAT--CAT BURGLAR PAR EXCELLANCE.

OR, AT LEAST, SHE WAS

HER LOVE FOR SPIDER-MAN SET HER ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW.

THAT PATH LED TO THEIR WAR WITH DR. OCTOPUS...

...AND TO THE CAT'S NEAR DEATH.

BUT SHE SURVIVED, AND THEIR LOVE BURNS STRONG.

REMEMBER WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL AND DOC OCK WAS AFTER ME, LOVER?

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE, CAT. I DIDN'T WANT THERE TO BE ANY SECRETS BETWEEN US.

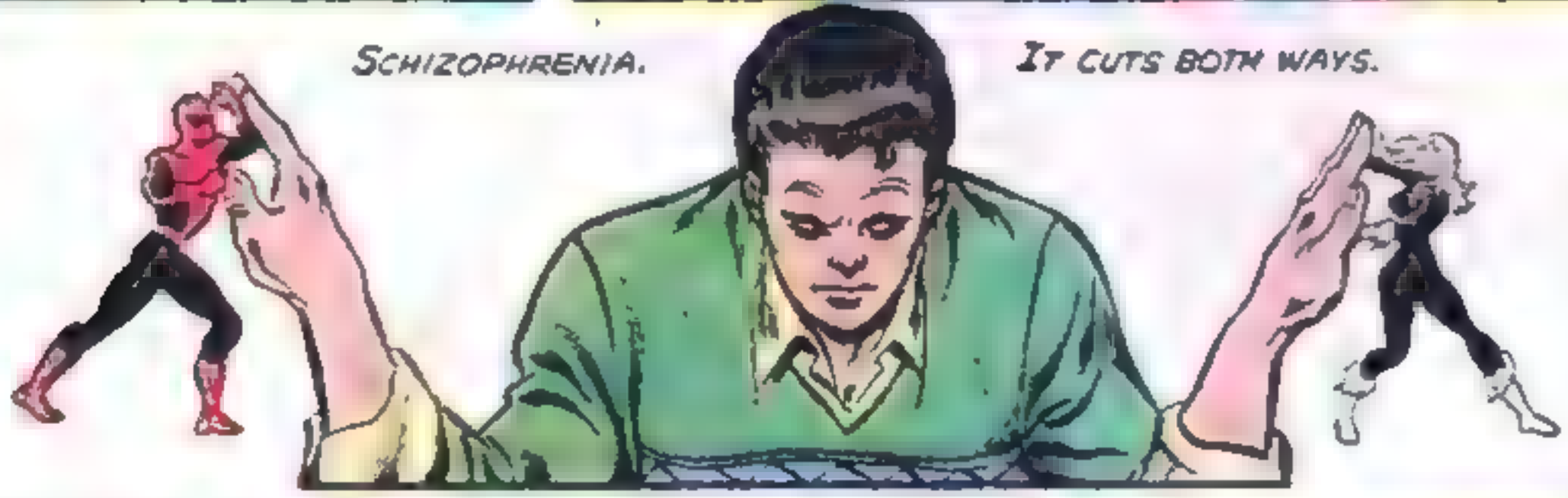
YOU WERE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF YOUR MASK...

AND NOW?

I...

SCHIZOPHRENIA.

IT CUTS BOTH WAYS.



OKAY. I CAN WAIT.

CAT, I DO LOVE YOU!

AND I LOVE YOU MY BEAUTIFUL MASKED STRANGER!

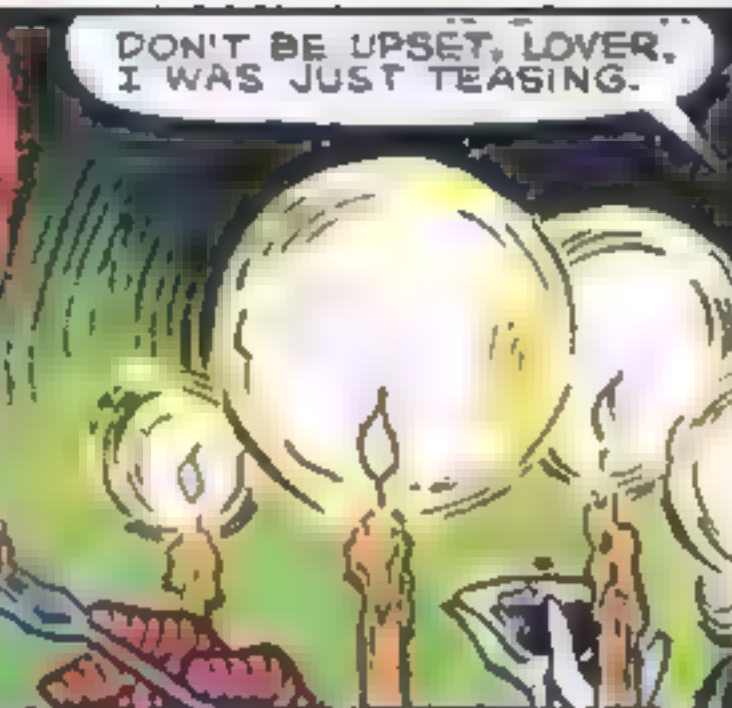
CARE FOR DINNER?

SOON... GOOD?

GOOD! TELL YOUR MOTHER I SAID SO.



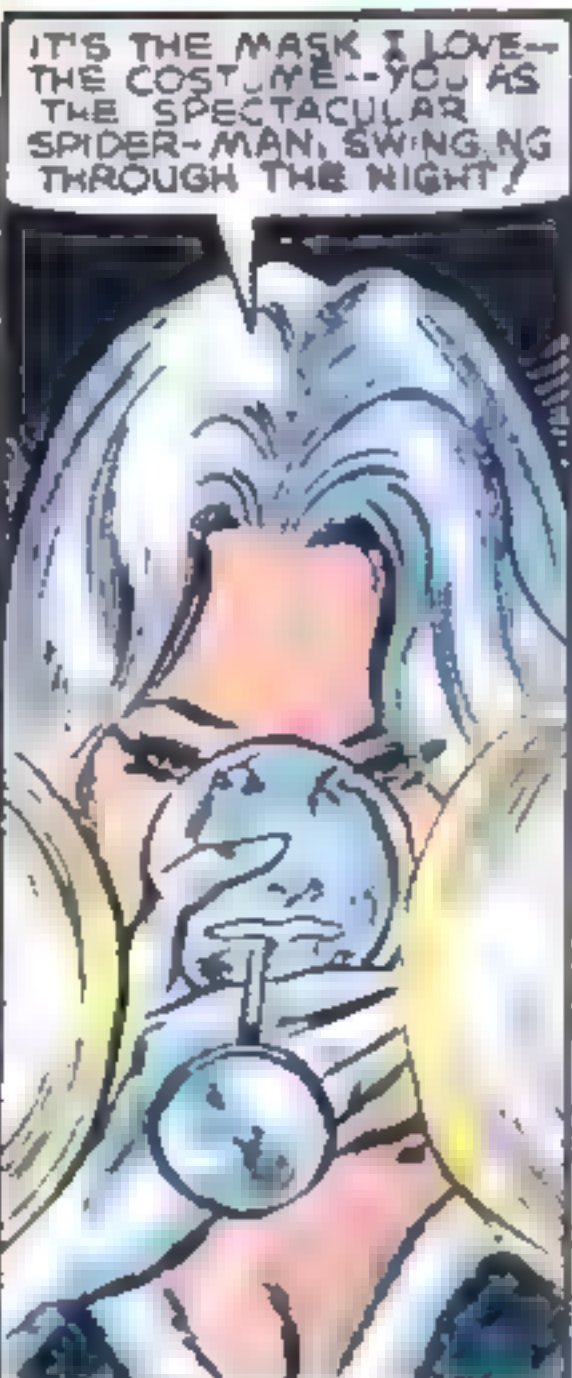
CAT. ABOUT WHO I AM-- I MEAN, UNDER THIS MASK...



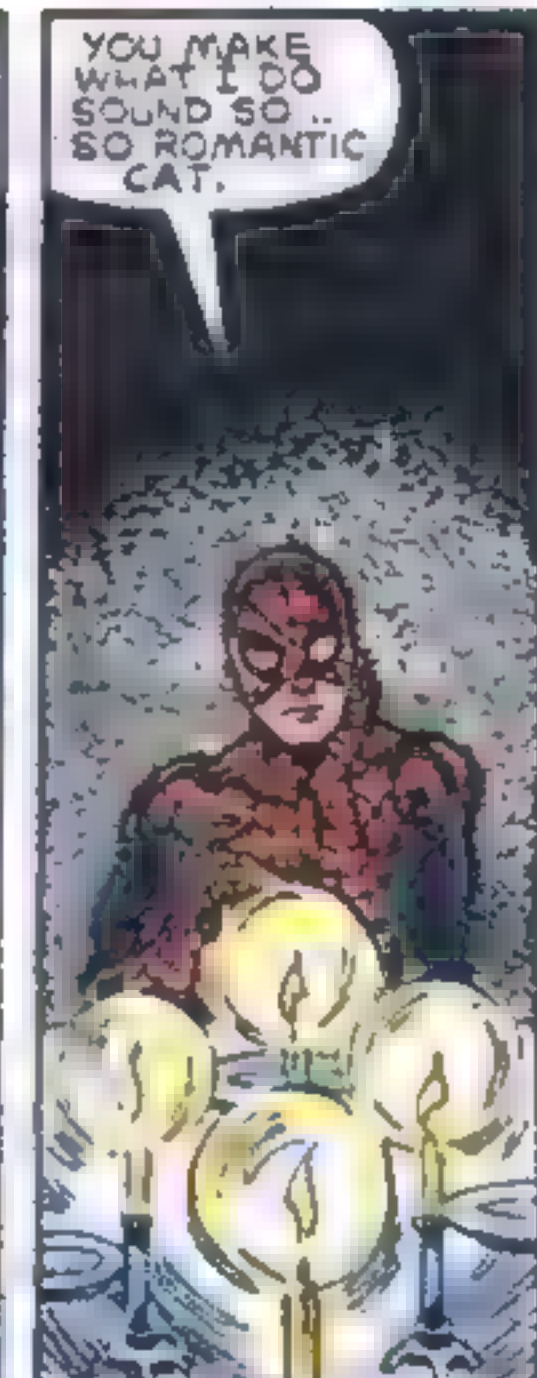
DON'T BE UPSET, LOVER. I WAS JUST TEASING.



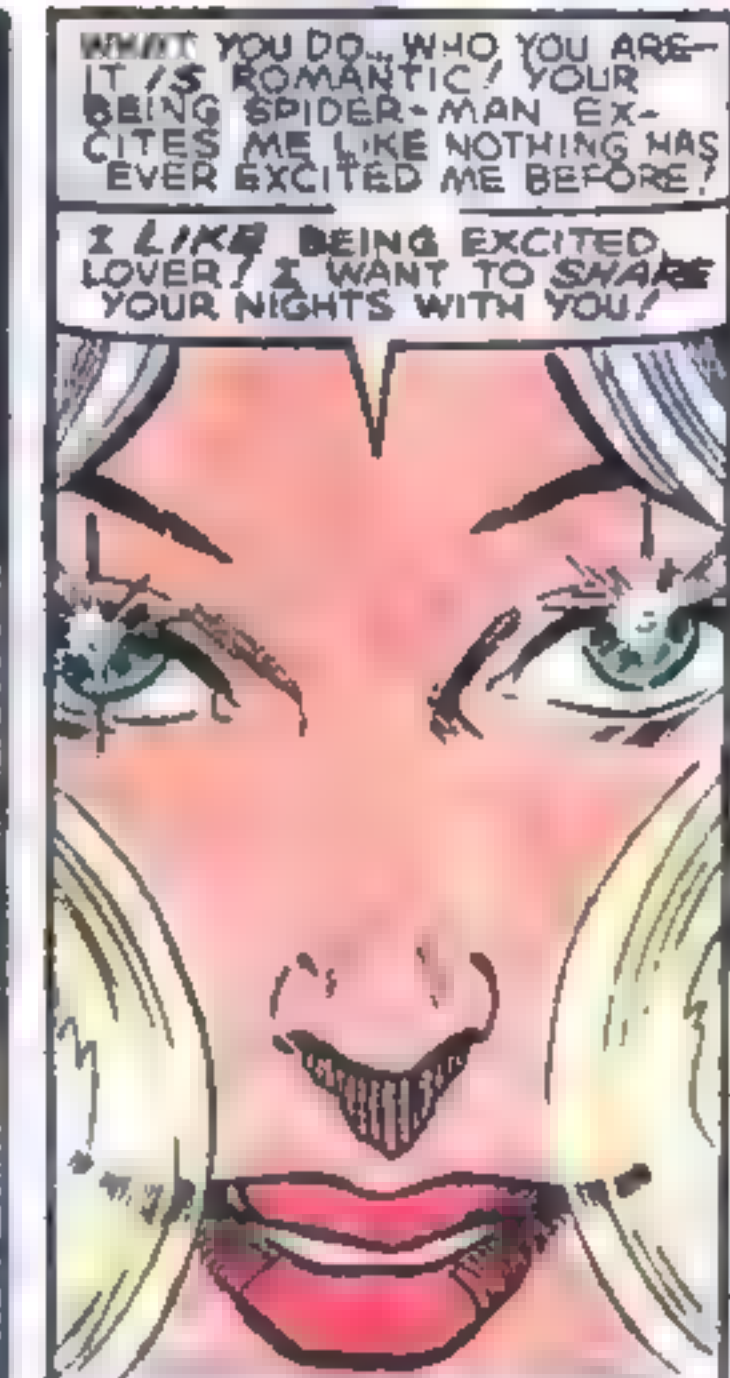
BESIDES, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME.



IT'S THE MASK I LOVE-- THE COSTUME-- YOU AS THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, SWINGING THROUGH THE NIGHT!



YOU MAKE WHAT I DO SOUND SO... SO ROMANTIC CAT.



WHAT YOU DO... WHO YOU ARE-- IT IS ROMANTIC! YOUR BEING SPIDER-MAN EXCITES ME LIKE NOTHING HAS EVER EXCITED ME BEFORE!

I LIKE BEING EXCITED, LOVER! I WANT TO SHARE YOUR NIGHTS WITH YOU!



CAT, WHAT YOU'RE ASKING-- IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE! THE LAST TIME YOU HELPED ME YOU ALMOST ENDED UP DEAD!



BUT YOU SAVED ME-- AND TOGETHER WE SAVED A CITY FROM DR. OCTOPUS!



I... CAN'T DENY THAT. IT'S JUST THAT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LONER-- NOT USED TO WATCHING OUT FOR SOMEONE ELSE.



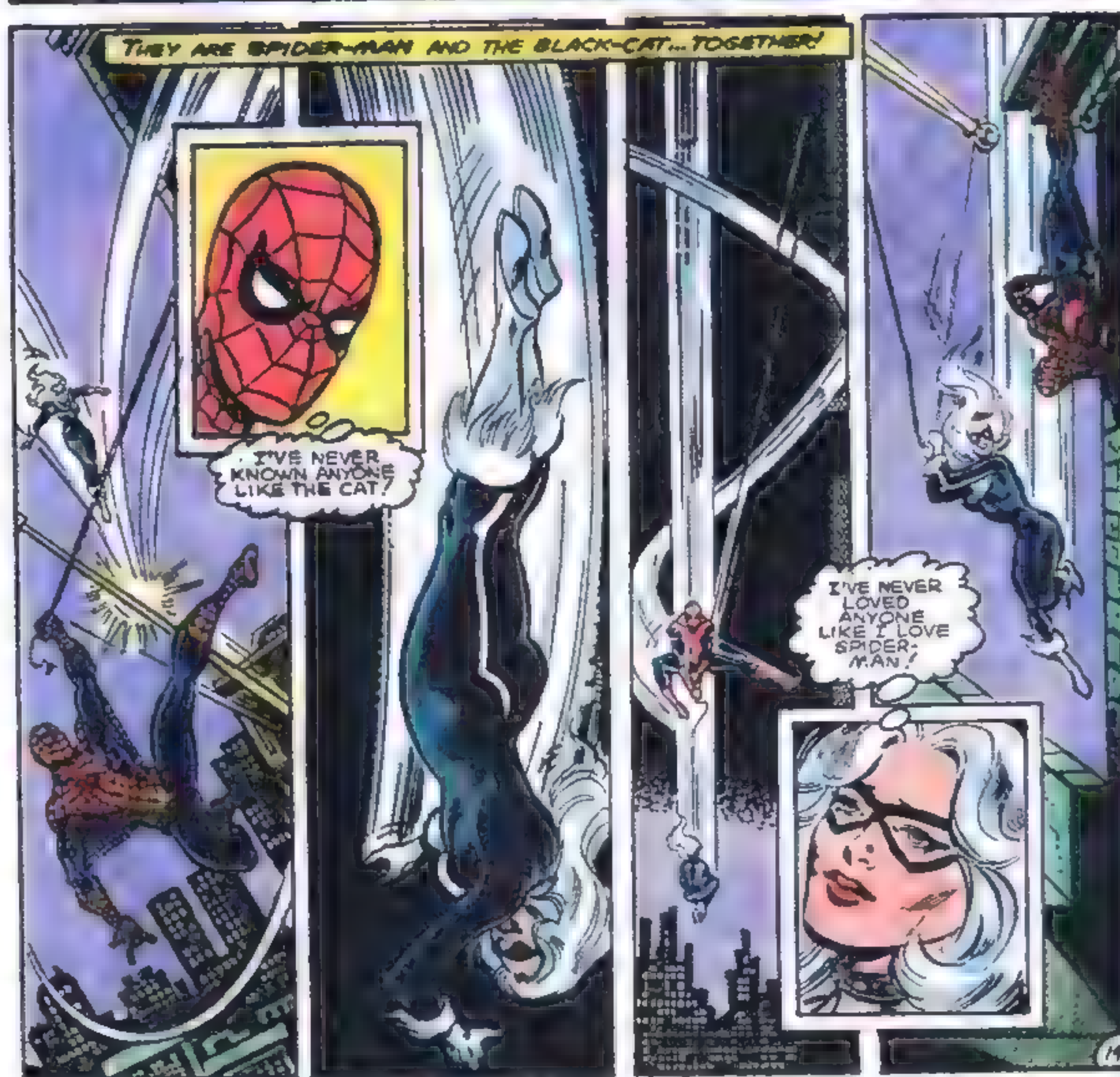
I'M A BIG GIRL NOW, LOVER-- OR HADN'T YOU NOTICED? NOBODY HAS TO BABYSIT FOR THE BLACK CAT!

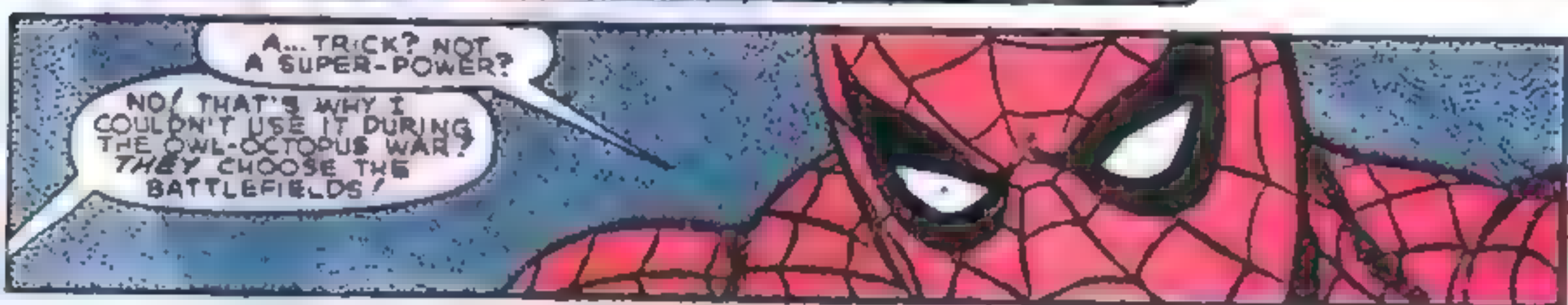
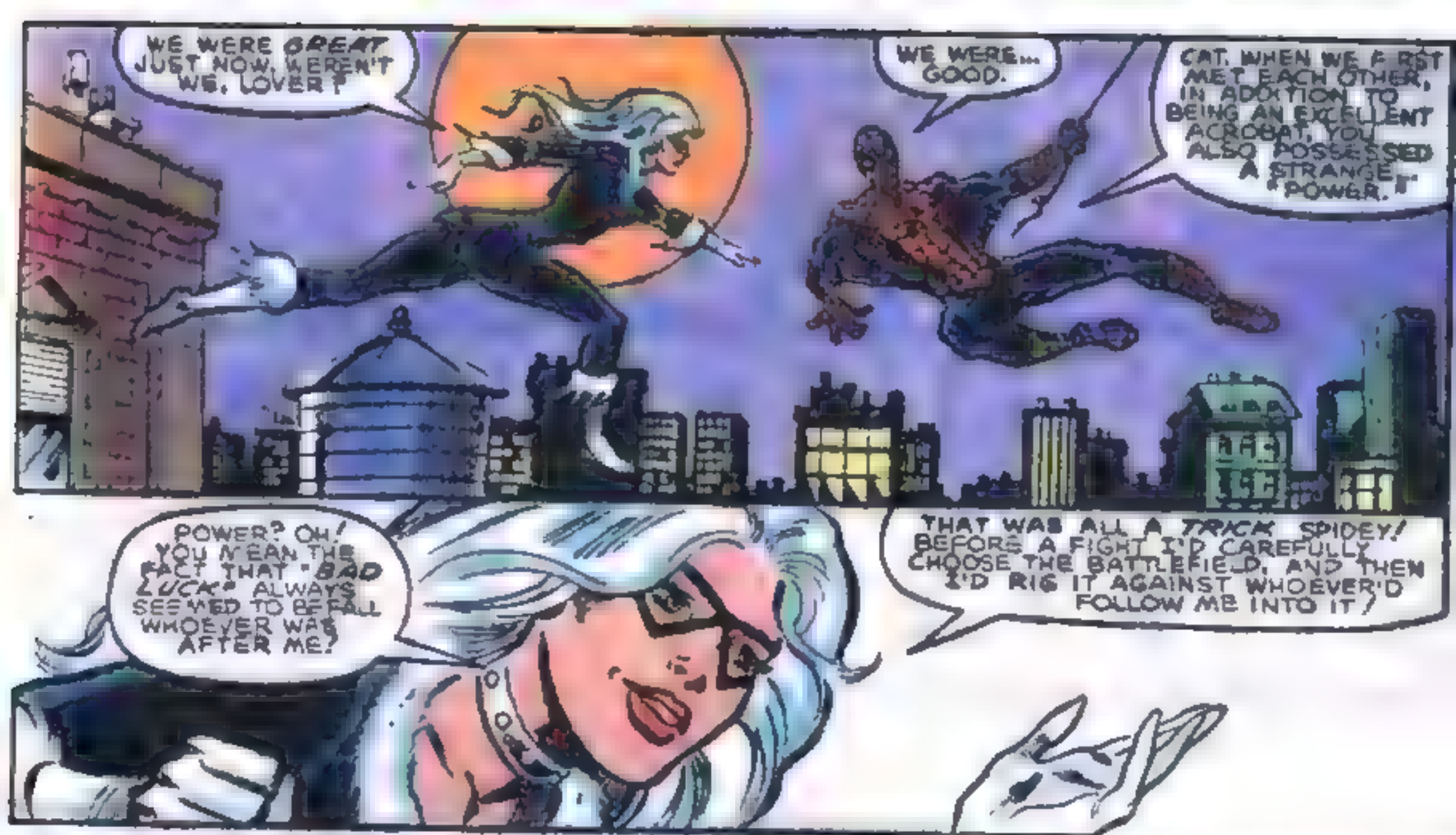
YEAH, WELL, I CAN THINK OF A LOT OF MEN WHO'D LIKE TO!

I DON'T WANT TO BE WITH A LOT OF MEN, SPIDER! I ONLY WANT TO BE WITH YOU!



THEY ARE SPIDER-MAN AND THE BLACK-CAT... TOGETHER!







--HURLED BY THAT
HELL-FIEND, THE
HOBGOBLIN!

WHAT-?!

PUMPKIN-
BOMBS-

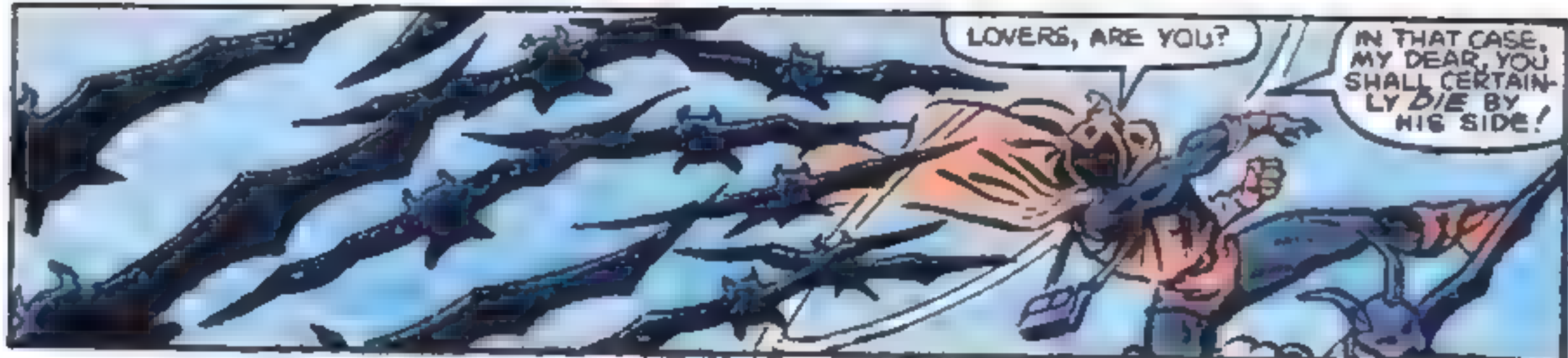
HOBGOBLIN?

A KILLER, CAT--MAYBE
DEADLIER THAN DOC OCK!

STAY BACK! I'LL
PROTECT YOU...!

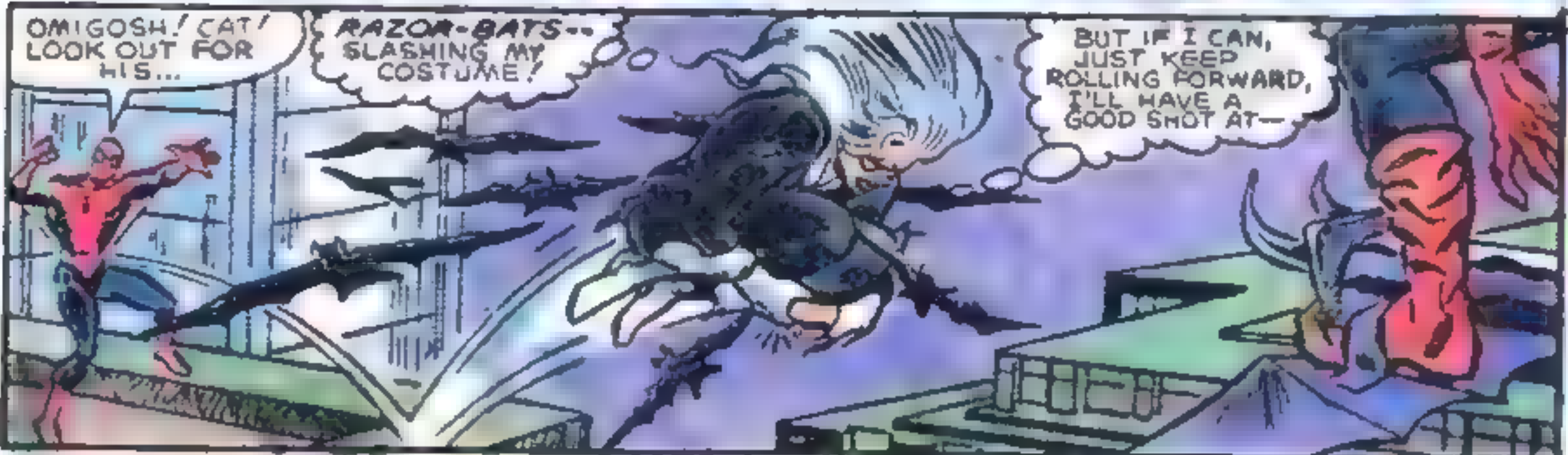
NO WAY,
LOVER!

I'M GOING
TO PROVE I'M
WORTHY TO FIGHT
BY YOUR SIDE!



LOVERS, ARE YOU?

IN THAT CASE, MY DEAR, YOU SHALL CERTAINLY DIE BY HIS SIDE!



OMIGOSH! CAT! LOOK OUT FOR HIS...

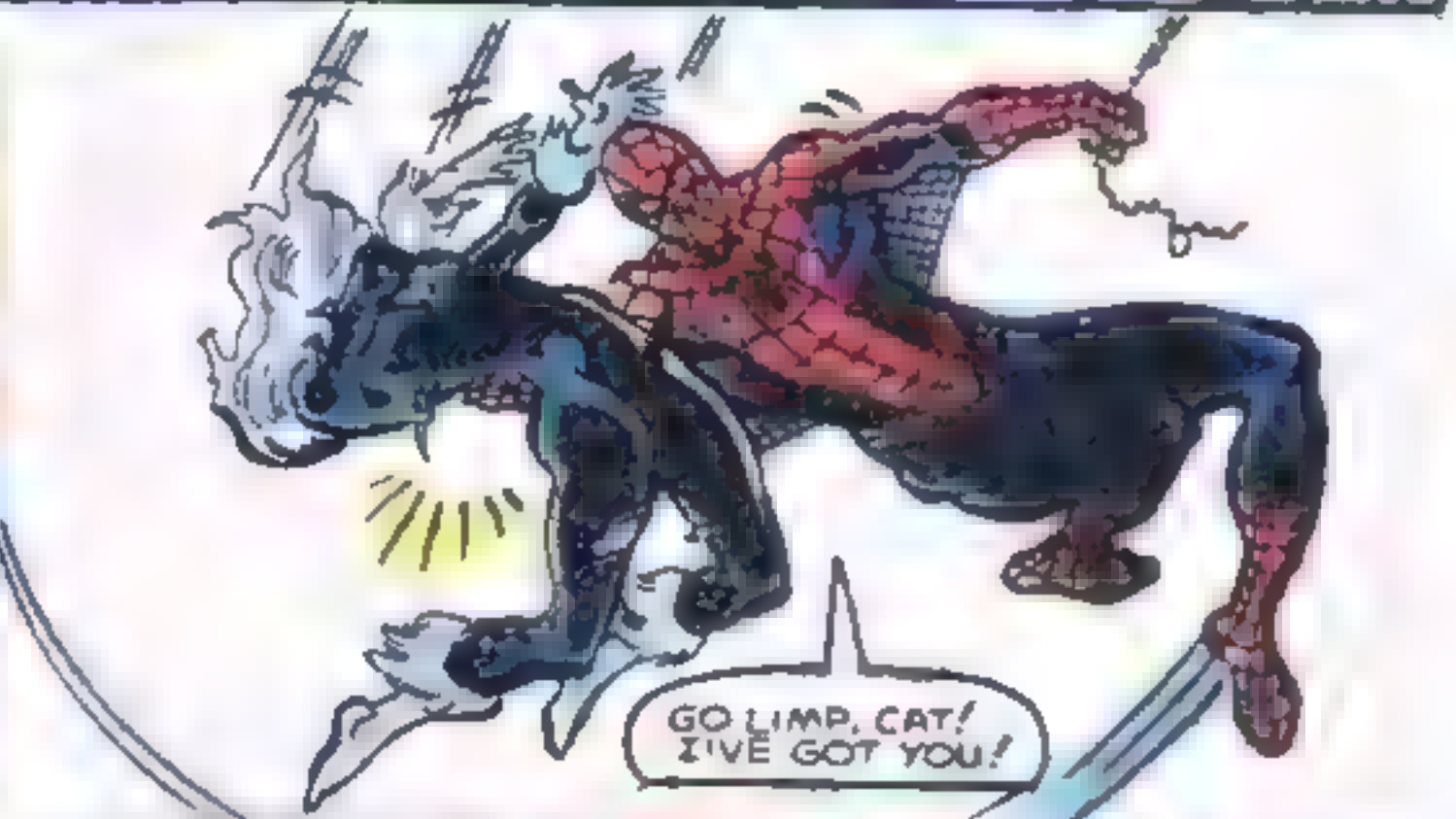
RAZOR-BATS-- SLASHING MY COSTUME!

BUT IF I CAN, JUST KEEP ROLLING FORWARD, I'LL HAVE A GOOD SHOT AT--

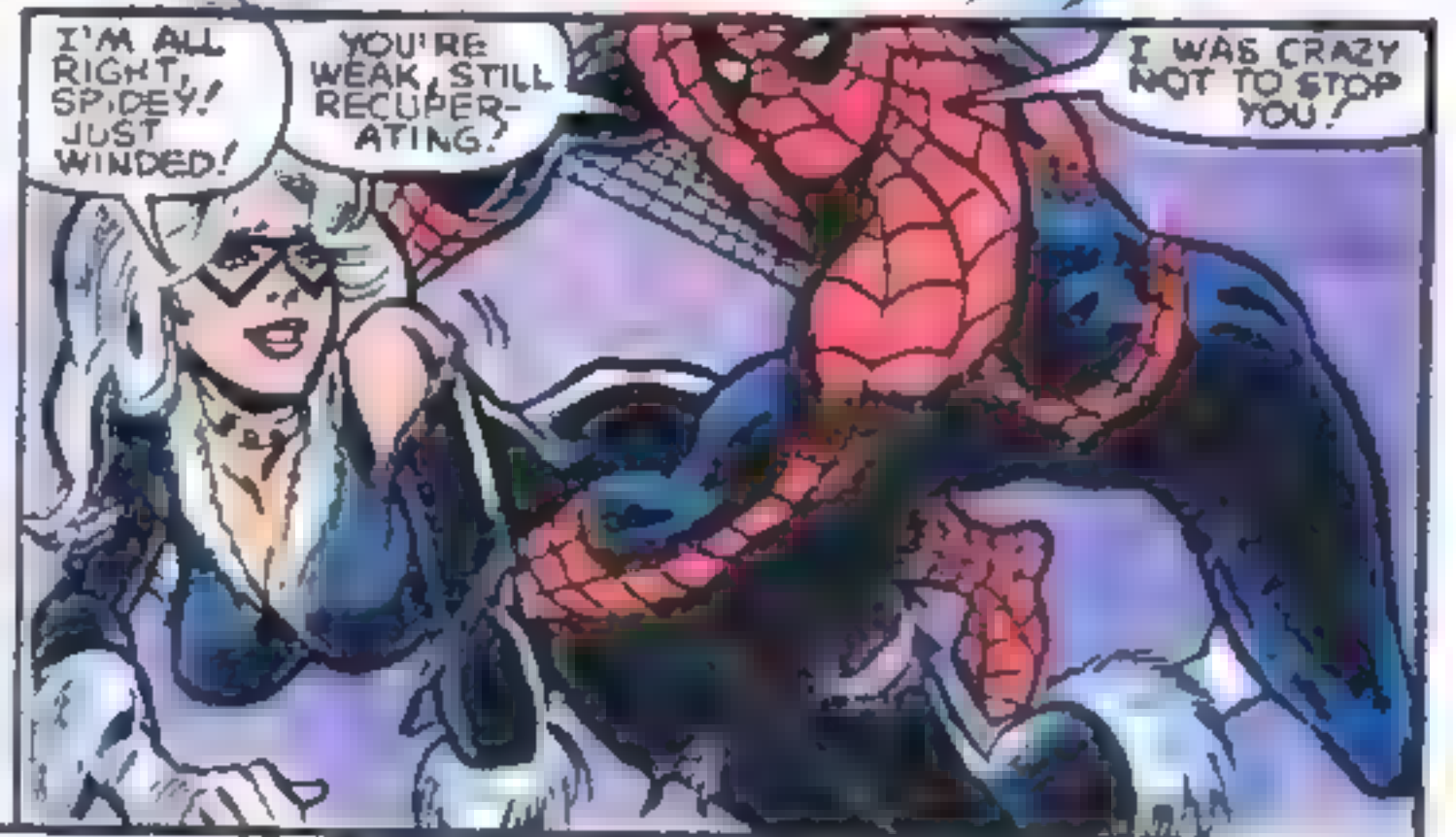


OHMM!

OH, DID MY LITTLE SPARKLES STOP YOU? I WOULD'VE EXPECTED SPIDER-MAN TO HAVE CHOSEN A MORE... RESOURCEFUL... LOVER!



GO LIMP, CAT! I'VE GOT YOU!



I'M ALL RIGHT, SPIDEY! JUST WINDED!

YOU'RE WEAK, STILL RECUPERATING!

I WAS CRAZY NOT TO STOP YOU!



REST NOW! NOBGoblin's MINE!

THE GAS-GHOST DRIFTS LAZILY, LETHALLY DOWNWARD.

BUT THE WEB-SLINGER IS READY!

I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D SHOW THAT FIGHT-FACE OF YOURS AGAIN, NOBGOBLIN!

WHAT HAPPENED? COULDN'T FIND ANOTHER DOPE LIKE LEFTY DONOVAN TO DIE IN YOUR PLACE?

DONOVAN SERVED HIS PURPOSE. NOW I SHALL PERSONALLY DESTROY YOU AND YOUR LADY!

THINK AGAIN, KILLER--

ZWAP!

--WHILE YOU'RE CROOKING ON YOUR OWN GHOST-GAS! TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT YOU START TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!

TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT I MAKE YOU PAY!

SPIDER-MAN'S SPEED, SKILL AND AGILITY MAKE HIM PRACTICALLY UNBEATABLE! WERE I TO RELY ON MY GADGETRY ALONE IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE HE COULD DEFEAT ME!

BUT THE PURPOSE OF MY ATTACK THIS NIGHT IS TO TEST MY NEWLY-ACQUIRED SUPER-STRENGTH!

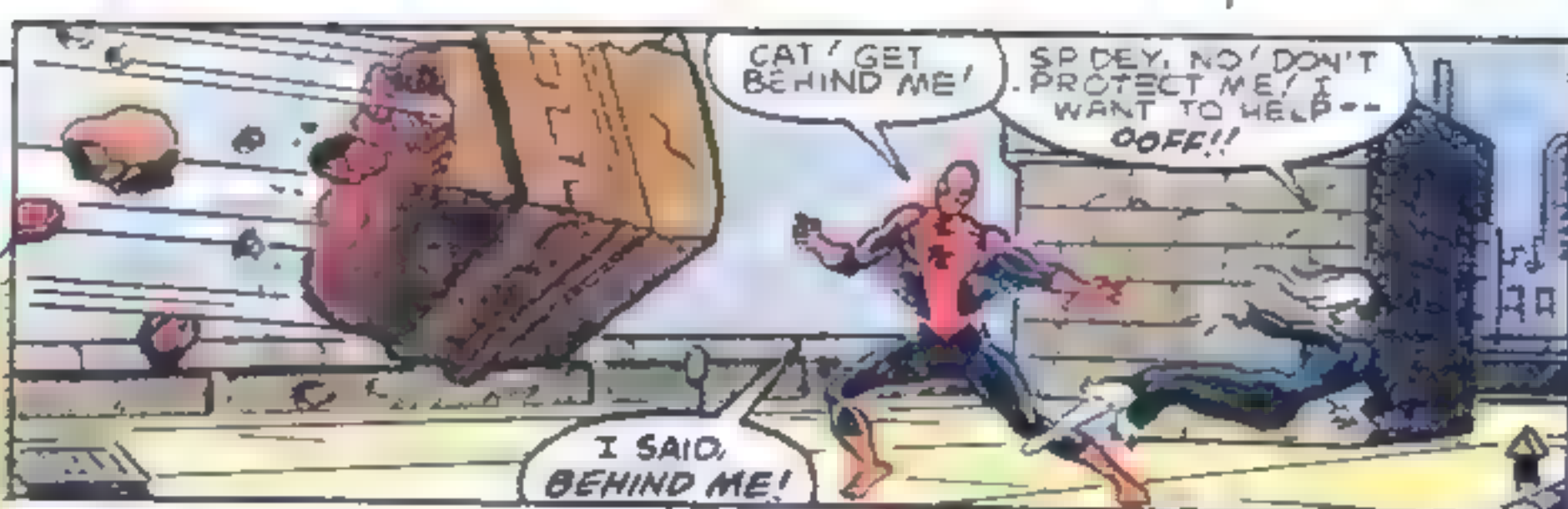
PROTECT YOUR LADY NOW, SPIDER-MAN!

HOLEE--!

KRATAK!

JOE COBURN RIPPED THE STONEWORK FROM THAT BUILDING WITH EASE, AND NOW HE'S HURLING IT AT US AS IF IT WERE LESS THAN PAPER MACHE

HE NEVER DISPLAYED THAT LEVEL OF POWER THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT!



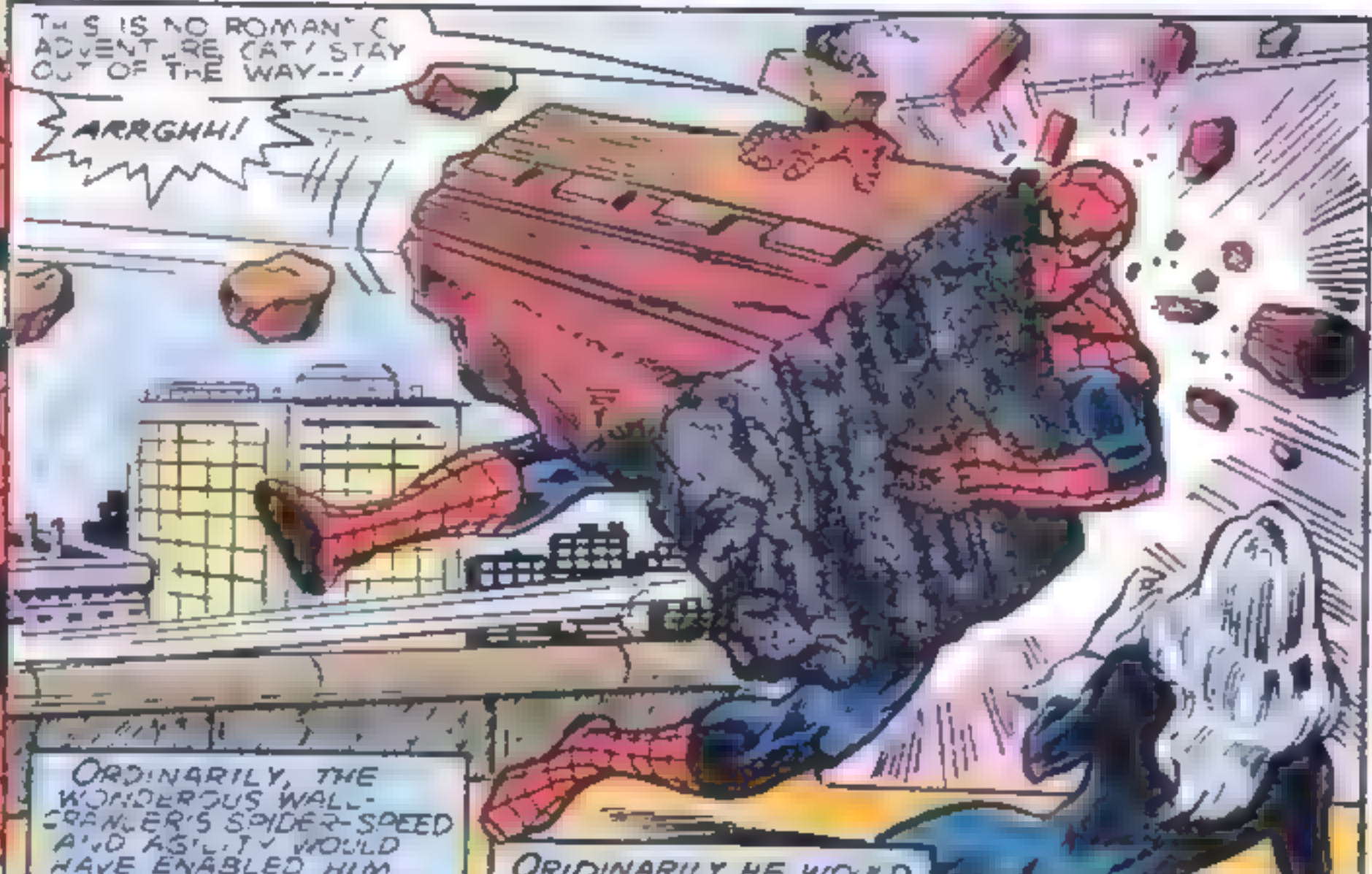
CAT! GET BEHIND ME!

SPIDEY, NO! DON'T PROTECT ME! I WANT TO HELP--
OOFF!!

I SAID, BEHIND ME!

THIS IS NO ROMANTIC ADVENTURE CAT! STAY OUT OF THE WAY--!

ARRGH!!



SOMEHOW WE'VE MADE MYSELF AS STRONG AS THE FIRST GREEN GOBLIN!!

ORDINARILY, THE WONDEROUS WALL-CRAWLER'S SPIDER-SPEED AND AGILITY WOULD HAVE ENABLED HIM TO EASILY AVOID THE CRASHING CORNICE.

ORDINARILY HE WOULD NOT BE LOOKING OUT FOR THE BLACK CAT.

ORDINARILY HE WOULD NOT BE FELLED



WE STAND ON AN EQUAL FOOTING NOW, SPIDER-MAN!

ONLY I AM FAR MORE RUTHLESS!



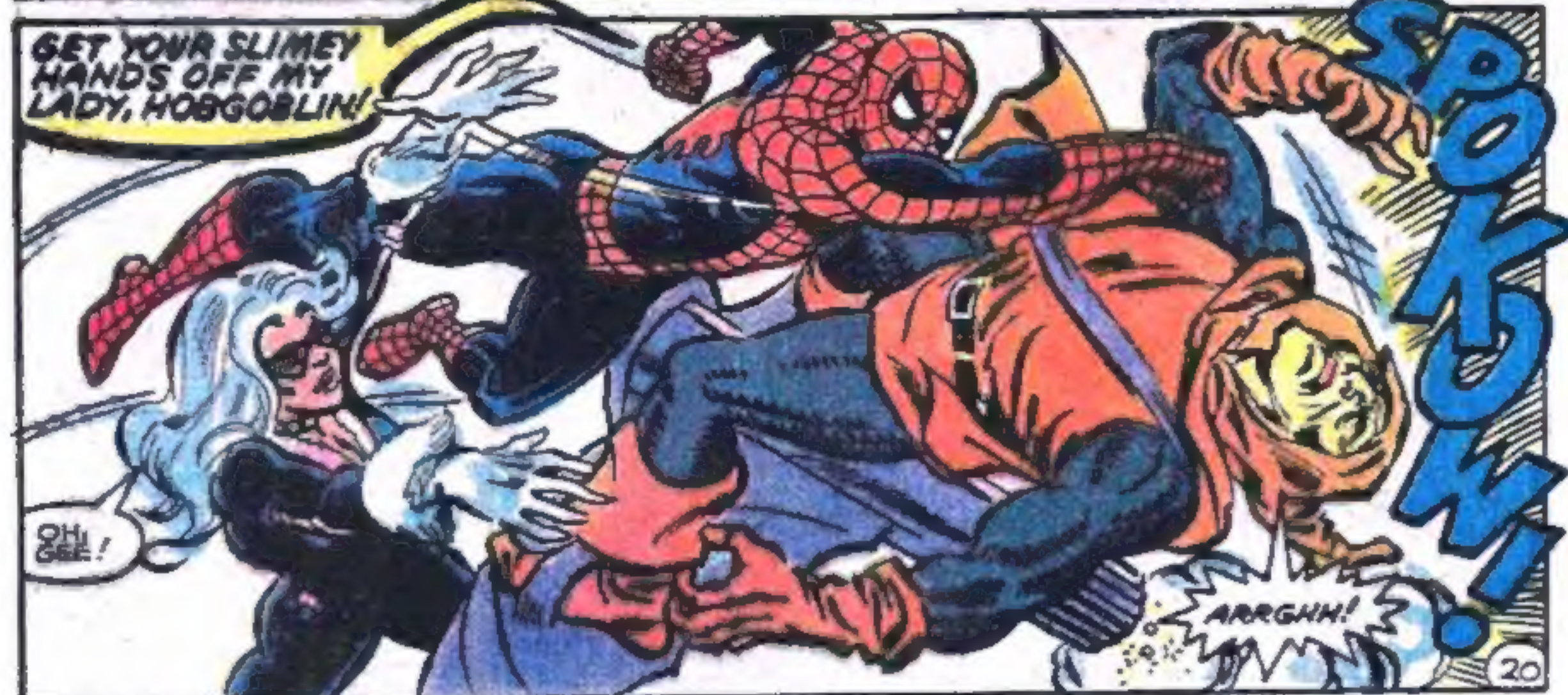
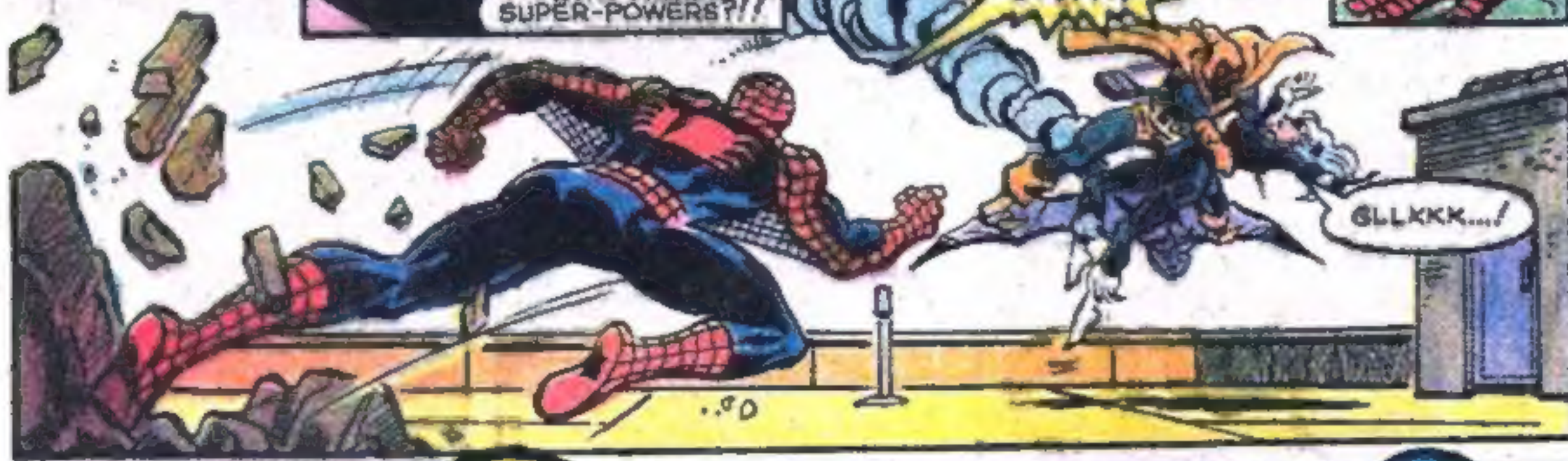
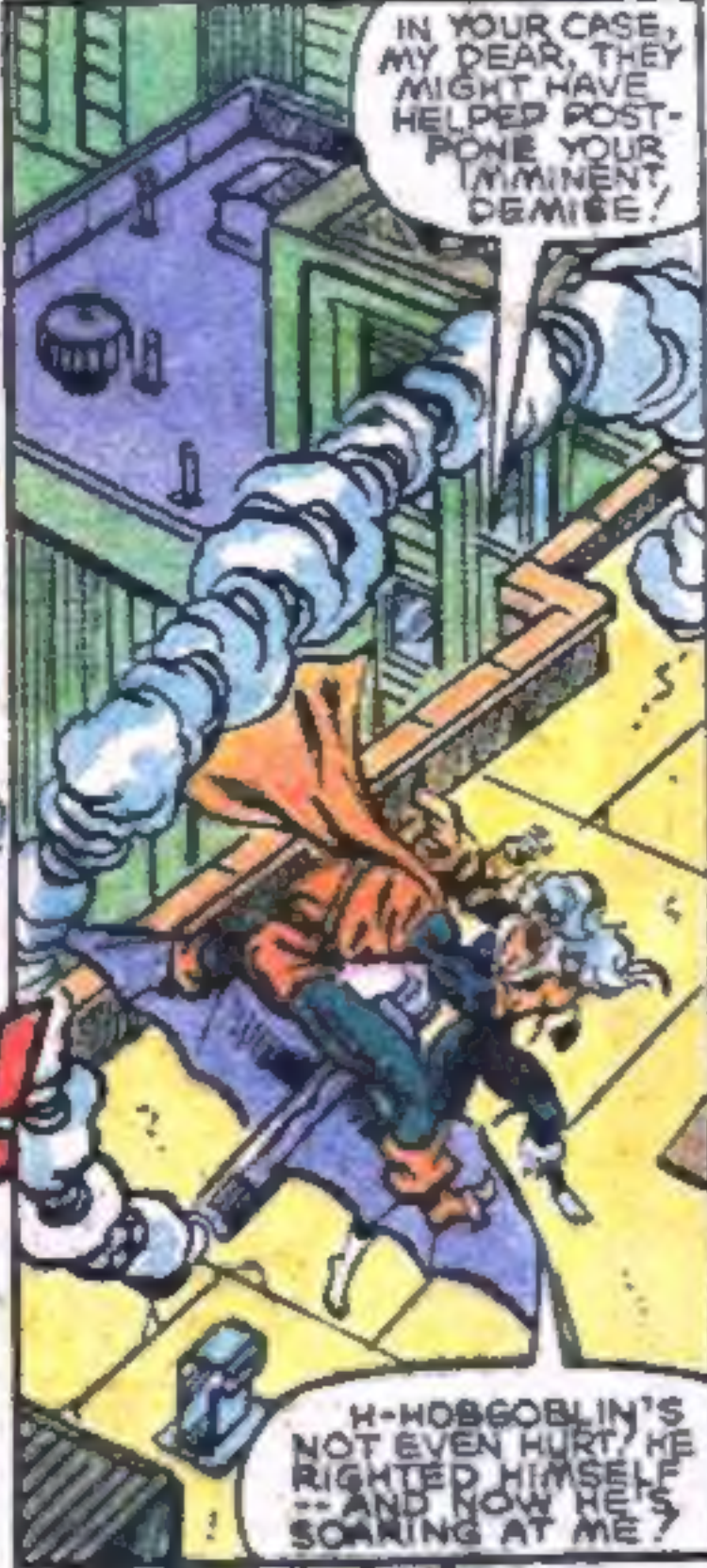
YOU HURT MY LOVER, MONSTER!

NOW FEEL THE CLAWS OF THE CAT!

THE CAT-CABLE IS TOSSED WITH UNEERRING ACCURACY

ITS CLAWS HOOK FAST TO THE GOB-IN-GLIDER...

...WITH UNSETTLING RESULTS.





NO! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! I HAVE INCREASED MY STRENGTH--!

YOU MAY HAVE GOTTEN STRONGER, 'GOBLIN-- BUT YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY SMARTER...

...OR YOU'D HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO COME AFTER SPIDER-MAN!

BLOW FOR BLOW, HE'S BEATING ME!

I WAS A FOOL TO RELY ON PHYSICAL STRENGTH WHEN I HAVE SO MANY OTHER MEANS OF CAUSING MAYHEM AT MY DISPOSAL!

AGGHH! FIREWORKS FROM YOUR FINGERTIPS--

--BLINDING ME!!!

LOVER!

I'LL BE OKAY IN A FEW SECONDS... BUT THOSE ARE A FEW SECONDS HOBGOBLIN WON'T ALLOW ME!



BUT I'M NOT AS HELPLESS AS I LOOK.

MY SPIDER-SENSE WILL ENABLE ME TO DODGE HIS ATTACK-- AND STRIKE BACK!

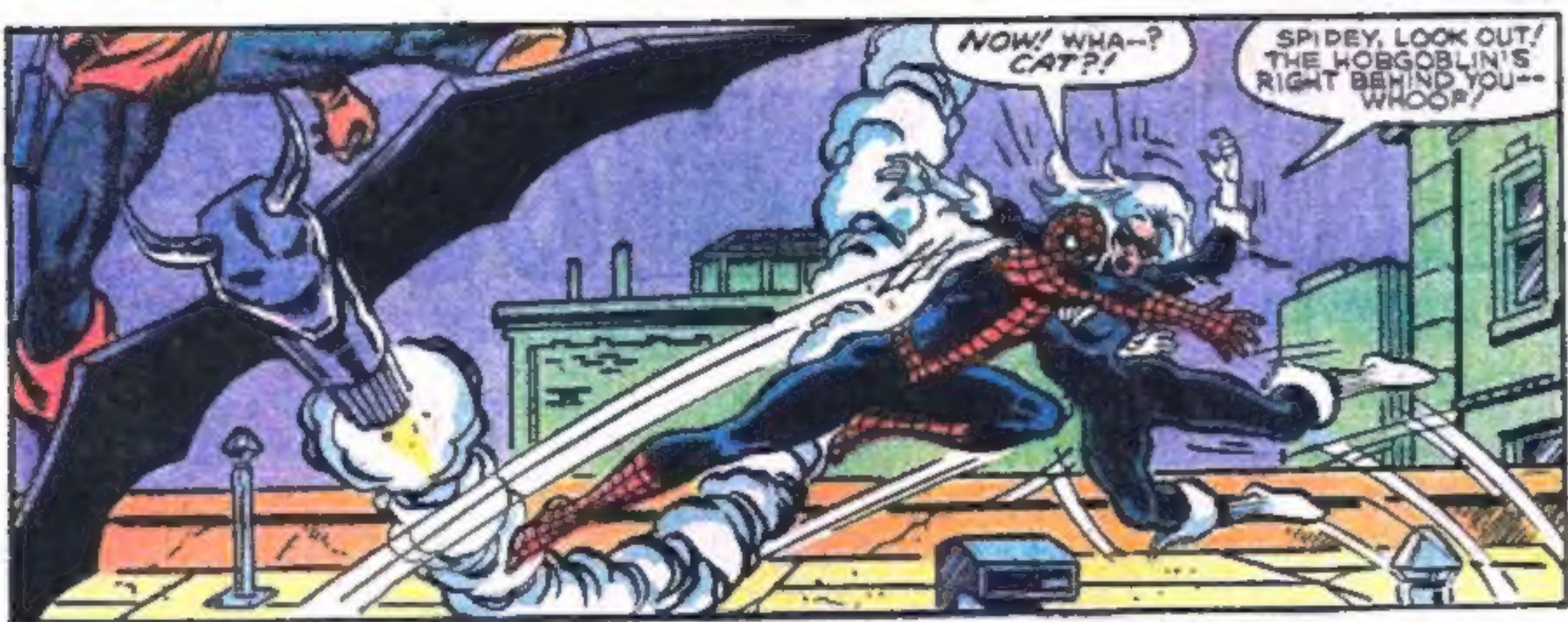


BUT UNAWARE OF HER LOVER'S PLAN... FEARING FOR HIS LIFE--

--THE BLACK CAT RUSHES TO HIS RESCUE!



THAT'S IT, HOBGOBLIN-- JUST A LITTLE CLOSER!



NEXT ISN

THE RETURN OF THE FEARSOME FLY, IN A TALE WE CAN ONLY CALL...

BUGS!

YOU'LL HAVE TO READ IT TO SEE WHY!

Dear Dan,

In the past two or three years, I've gradually seen Jonah become more "human," especially with the introduction of Maria Madison. To see Jonah with a lady friend is like a breath of fresh air (though I wish they would get married - it seems like 98% of the significant figures in the Marvel universe are unmarried, and it doesn't require an expert to see how unrealistic that is). PPTSSM #80 gave more insight into the real Jonah than I have found in any issue since way back in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #10.

Randy Barlow
P.O. Box 608
Glimmer, TX 75844

Dear Danny,

After reading "I Cover the Waterfront!" in the current PETER PARKER, I couldn't help but recall a letter published over a decade ago in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #102. The thrust of that letter was that J. Jonah Jameson's character had been much maligned over the years and that a story was needed which would show Jameson as a man dedicated to meeting the responsibilities of his journalistic profession with integrity and courage - possibly a story in which he exposed crime and corruption in the city he loved, despite personal discomfort and danger. The response was a polite rejection of the idea: "We've a hunch that - whatever the hidden virtues of J. Jonah Jameson - the mass of Marveldom assembled would prefer to see them stay hidden like the submerged part of a very intriguing iceberg."

It was gratifying to see that someone finally agreed with that solitary voice from the past - and I'm glad I've stayed around long enough to see my request answered, after twelve years, in such stirring fashion. An excellent job by all concerned, and I thank you.

Gary L. McCullough
1600 Eastcrest Dr. Apt. LL
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dear Marvel,

PETER PARKER #80 was the boldest effort I have ever seen in my many years of comicdom. Also, it was the best single comic I've ever read. No matter how badly old J. Jonah Jameson treats Spidey after this issue, I totally respect him for his great belief in the press. The way the story was told was sheer genius. The whole Bullpen deserves a raise! (I read the letter column of THOR #333.)

Scott Schaier
1752 John St.
Merrick, NY 11566

Thanks for the kind words, folks. It seems as if everyone liked J.J.J.'s first solo outing. Well, almost everyone. Despite the overwhelmingly positive response, one negative letter did come in. Observe:

Dear Dan,

Being a hardcore Spidey fan, I can't help but say that PPTSSM #80 stunk! Not since issue #71 have I been more bored to death. I was expecting to see Spider-Man fighting against a super baddie, not J. Jonah Jameson in a rendition of the Nightstalker.

son in a rendition of the Nightstalker.

Peter Gertz
109A Bergen St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Thanks, Pete. For a second there it looked like we'd have to give everyone that raise! Whew!

But onto a slightly more controversial point: In PPTSSM #80, a letter was printed which wondered if Peter Parker wasn't becoming somewhat selfish and unlikeable in recent months. Your response to that letter was voluminous. Here's a sampling...

Dear Marvel:

Re: verde's letter and a call for comment in PPSSM #80.

Is Peter Parker likeable? No, not really. Peter is a complex, plausible character whom I've always found interesting, but he has never been what I would call a nice guy. Years ago, I found myself observing that if I knew Peter Parker, I wouldn't want him for my friend.

Scott Stevenson
562 Concord Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M6H 2R1, Canada

Dear Danny,

The conclusion of verde's letter suggests that Peter Parker "join the ranks of the grown super-heroes, like Captain America or Iron Man." This I found to be amusing. Captain America is an emotional wreck still searching for his own identity, and Iron Man is an active alcoholic. Personally, I think your friendly neighborhood Peter Parker is just fine the way he is.

Dejan Kovacevic
167 Penn Lear Dr.
Monroeville, PA 15146

Dear Marvel,

I'm glad you asked! Lately, Peter Parker has become a self-centered, thoughtless, self-righteous, whining jackass. I'm a counselor, and should know! He needs help! (Who's judgemental?)

Don Eisen
9730 Reseda Bl. #220
Northridge, CA 91324

Dear Marvel,

I loved J. Jonah Jameson's solo story, but that's not what this letter is about. Instead, I'd like to reply to the letter sent in by, uh, verde.

We have to take everything into consideration. Peter is a scholar, a photographer, a loving nephew, and a super hero. That alone would keep me from being the perfect human. Especially being a super hero. To be constantly in danger, always fighting, would scare me witless! It's not as easy as he makes it look. As Pete himself once said, "Jokes just help me not to be scared."

Also, think how unstable Peter's life is. He has to support himself and help Aunt May. Does he have a wife to comfort him when things get rough? I mean, Cap has Bernie, and Tony Stark can take his pick. Granted, Spidey has the Black Cat, but they haven't really had a chance to develop their relationship yet.

Do you want a selfless act? Just look at last issue! Spider-Man saved Doctor Octopus. You can say, "Oh, he only did that to save his image." But he didn't have to! No one was around. He could have told Jean DeWolff that it was too late to save him, and she'd probably have been glad Ock was dead.

Has Spidey visited his friends? Check out the 1982 SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL. True, Peter does get rude with the gang at ESU, but so would I if my girlfriend were hospitalized or I was turning into a monster or something equally horrible was happening in my life.

You think Spidey saves all those people for kicks? I can think of a lot of other things he could do for thrills that would benefit no one - and perhaps even endanger others!

However, Pete isn't the best he could be. Sometimes he seems so... unreal. Maybe a little more personality would help.

Greg Howard
3101 Deerwood Dr.
Ukiah, CA 95482

MORE PERSONALITY!!??!! Looking over the above letters, it seems to us that Peter's already got more personality than he - or anyone else for that matter - know's what to do with! He is an unusual life with unusual problems. Like all of us, he never stops trying to figure out and do what's right. Hope you'll all be around while he sorts things out.

Dear Marvel,

About the cover on PPTSSM #80: how in the heck is J.J.J. gonna kiss Maria Madison with a cigar in his mouth?

Robb Zelony, John Muenning,
and Dan Hassler
Chicago, IL

Carefully, guys. Very, very carefully.

NEXT MONTH: Next month, I'll be away at comics conventions, so my assistant, Bob DeNatale, will be taking care of things. Bob's just gonna make sure things roll along smoothly, as usual. I've already approved Bill's plot for the story, and I can tell you it's going to be a deeply moving yet wildly exciting tale of the return of the Fly, who is mad with hate for Spider-Man and J. Jonah Jameson... and afflicted with a very strange malady. "Bugs" also features the continuing saga of Spidey's romance with the Black Cat. So I have lots of faith in the story. I know it's great. But since Al Milgrom's gonna be doing the convention circuit, too, he won't have time to draw issue #86, so Bob'll have to recruit a special guest-artist. But I've got faith in DeNatale. He's got good taste. Whoever he gets will be someone very good. I'm sure of that. See you when I get back, folks. Bye.

Danny Fingeroth

(Just time for a quick plug! I've got FRED HEMBECK lined up to draw next issue! If you know who he is, wait'll you see his stuff! If you don't know his work, how can you even contemplate missing next issue? He's gonna make me a star! Be here.

Bob D.)